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OPINION METER

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New Boss

Maritime Prepositioning Ships Squadron Three has a new commander.

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No Word

American servicemen remain mum about their historic mission to bury Osama bin Laden.

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New Pirate

Penelope Cruz walks the plank in "Pirates of the Caribbean" while pregnant.

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IN FIRST HALF OF FY 2011:

Revenue short by \$1.09M; overspending by \$657,236



By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Government revenue in the first half of fiscal year 2011 was short by over \$1.087 million, mainly because of low hospital collections. During the same period, expenditures exceeded allotments by \$657,236, also primarily because of hospital expenses and medical referral.

See **REVENUE** on **Page 4**

REMEMBERING THOSE WHO SERVED

A police officer and a ports police officer place a wreath in front of the Department of Public Safety during yesterday's 2011 Peace Memorial Service of DPS and the Commonwealth Ports Authority to remember at least 12 of their comrades who lost their lives or got injured in the line of duty.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

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Man'amko talent show a smash hit

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Community members who watched the Man'amko Amazing Talent Show were entertained with musical and dance performances as well as stand-up comedy acts from the island's elderly population.

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CLARISSA V. DAVID

Felisa Baza has a dance showdown with guest performer Brandon Manglona of the U.S. Air Force.

ON MARPI POWER POLES PROJECT

Judge: Govt argument uses ludicrous logic

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Superior Court associate judge Kenneth L. Govendo issued yesterday a written opinion on the Marpi power poles project, describing as "ludicrous logic" the CNMI government's argument that a single, inconspicuous section mentioning the power poles is enough public notice about the matter.

Among the many documents filed in court, Govendo said that only one schematic drawing in the entire package mentions the power poles.

He said the schematic drawing has a note that states: "CUC to extend 3 Phase, 13.8 kv overhead

primary line toward the project site which is approximately 2 miles

See **JUDGE** on **Page 4**

CHC taps Guam firm for billing system

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Health Center has tapped a Guam-based company to work on the backlog in its billing system, according to Esther Muna, public health acting deputy chief.

She confirmed yesterday that Guam Marianas Collection Agency began working for the hospital since April 1. It will get 10 percent from what it could collect for the CNMI hospital.

Muna pointed out that GMCA will only deal with hos-
See **CHC** on **Page 4**

RELATED NEWS

CHC is down to 24 doctors. **PAGE 3**



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Local

Cabrera to resume post as program director

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Northern Marianas College interim president Lorraine T. Cabrera will go back to her old job as state director of the college's Adult Basic Education program once a new president is named by the Board of Regents.

Cabrera confirmed that she will revert to her previous post in an interview with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, during which she also shared the challenges and lessons she gained as NMC's interim president in the last 17 months.

The board expects to receive today a response from Dr. Christa Adams, whether she accepts the offer to become the next chief executive officer of NMC.

Although the presidency is a "very challenging" position, Cabrera said there were great lessons in serving.

"The greatest part I got from being an interim was the support from the college. It is a very hard position but when you know that you have a lot of people behind you, it's easy to go on," she said.

When she accepted the challenge, she knew it came with great sacrifice. As a single mother, Cabrera said her new responsibilities ate into the time she had with her two children.

"I kept late hours and I didn't devote as much quality time to my children. That was really hard. Just the past months, it's always on my head how much longer could I go, how much more I could take. But I know that I accepted the position be-

cause of the institution, not for myself. That was still my motivation," she said.

The revolving door on the board's leadership was also a challenge. Since January 2010, when Cabrera was named interim president, the Board of Regents has had three chairpersons.

"I learned that you should learn to adapt and maintain the respect for each of them," she said, adding that she was also able to develop a good working relationship with members of the Legislature and the Fitial administration.

'Unpopular decisions'

Cabrera admitted that she was criticized for making unpopular decisions in her goal to do what's best for the college. Many of these, she added, involved the finances of the institution.

"I am not perfect. Everyday I struggle with decisions. Maybe there are some decisions that I could make better...but I always make decisions with the institution in mind. Some of the decisions I made were not popular because it doesn't benefit one group or another. It is always for long-term or the big picture," she said.

Cabrera believes that 2012 will be a bleak year for NMC if plans are not implemented to counter budgetary cuts. "I am constantly working with our finance office in making sure that we have money for our programs."

Throughout her term as interim president, Cabrera said: "I do believe I've done my best for this institution. I would take

what I have learned from here and make my program better."

Cabrera hopes that the new president would continue to improve and develop the college's learning community program and make NMC energy-efficient on top of prioritizing the academic courses it offers.

NMC graduates select 2 college executives as keynote speakers

Members of this year's Northern Marianas College graduating class have selected Geri Willis and Barbara Merfalen as their keynote speakers in their upcoming commencement exercises this week.

Willis is the program director of Student Engagement, First Year Experience and Learning in Communities program at the college; Merfalen is the dean of Academic Programs and Services.

Willis was with NMC from 2001 to 2006, serving in various capacities from instructor to acting director for the School of Education, before returning in 2010. She pioneered the Troops-to-Teachers program and started Operation CNMI Home Front Support in 2008 that sends care packages to CNMI soldiers during the holidays. Willis also wrote the AmeriCorps grant and developed the program for the CNMI.

Merfalen, as dean of Academic Programs and Services,

She disclosed that morale at the college has gone up.

"There are more people talking to each other. Morale has gone up. What I would like to see [under the new president] is more collaboration and communication between and among groups," she said.

oversees the content of courses taught at the college and ensures their quality. Her background includes being a K-12th teacher as well as a vice principal for Kagman Elementary School. She also taught at NMC before becoming an administrator.

Merfalen is the president of the Autism Society of the CNMI and is currently a catechism teacher at



Merfalen



Willis

St. Jude's parish.

"Both keynote speakers are sure to inspire the graduating class with all their experiences in life and their passion and dedication for the college and its students. I don't think the graduating class could have picked a better pair of keynote speakers," said interim president Lorraine T. Cabrera yesterday.

Willis and Merfalen will be delivering their keynote speeches at the 31st commencement ceremony to be held at the Marianas High School Gymnasium this Saturday, May 21, beginning 4pm. *(Moneth Deposa)*



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Jennifer Backhaus, center, and friends

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Thyse Tutty, left, and friend Loretolynn Itibus



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New hotel investor gets 1-year authorization to enter property

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTER

The Department of Public Lands issued a one-year temporary authorization to Island Ventures LLC to enter the premises it wants to lease to build a multi-million hotel resort in Marpi/San Roque, where Flame Sako had once planned to build an \$80-million hotel.

DPL Secretary Oscar M. Babauta said yesterday that the temporary authorization issued

in April will allow Island Ventures to conduct an assessment or survey the property while a land lease agreement is still being worked on.

"We're hoping that this project will really take off," Babauta told *Saipan Tribune*.

Babauta was referring to two other failed investment projects planned for the same area, including Flame Sako which leased the area for 25 years, only to abandon the project later and owe DPL over \$55,000 in

land lease payment arrears plus interest.

The hotel project is on a 5.1-hectare public land in the Marpi/San Roque area, north of the former The Palms Resort.

Babauta said DPL could revoke the temporary authorization any time.

The Legislature's approval of the lease is also needed as it involves more than 5 hectares of

public lands.

When Flame Sako failed to deliver on its planned project, a second investor approached DPL—Leisure Planner—which also planned to build a \$120-

million hotel, only to drop the project altogether even before a lease deal could be approved.

Then came Islands Ventures LLC, a new business incorporated in the CNMI whose principals also own a Calif.-based company with financial investments in Hong Kong.

Inos: Law instead of executive order on merger of DPS, DOC

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTER

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos said yesterday that the Fitial administration wants the merger of the departments of Public Safety and Corrections to be done by law rather than an executive order.

"The whole thing is to be implemented beginning Oct. 1 so there's time [to pass a law]," Inos said in an interview at the 2011 Peace Memorial Service at the Department of Public Safety in Susupe yesterday.

An administration-sponsored bill on the consolidation of DPS and DOC will be drafted, he said.

While the merger will take effect at the start of fiscal year 2012 on Oct. 1, the merger will not be a part of the fiscal year 2012 budget law but will be a standalone piece of legislation.

This comes weeks after Gov. Benigno R. Fitial issued on April 27 an executive order transferring the management and control of the Juvenile Detention Unit from the Department of Public Safety to the Department of Corrections.

CHC is down to 24 doctors

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

From 27 physicians two months ago, the Commonwealth Health Center is down to 24 doctors but the Department of Public Health assures this is enough to sustain operations.

Esther Muña, public health's acting deputy chief for hospital administration, said the 24 doctors include both full- and short-term hires.

Six doctors, including one locum (short-term hire) are with the internal medicine section; six, including one locum, are with pediatrics and women's clinic. The emergency room has five full-time doctors. There are also three anesthesiologists, three surgeons, and one nephrologist.

Muna said that CHC also has two physician assistants and is trying to get one more to improve services at the emergency unit.

"The number of doctors at the hospital is still stable. We continue to recruit additional physicians, but we are providing the needed services to the patients," she told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

ment of Community and Cultural Affairs to Corrections. The governor's proposed 2012 budget submission also reflected the DPS-DOC merger.

The merger was among the recommendations made by the independent Virginia-based firm, Management Analysis Inc., which reviewed both DCCA and DPS.

Inos said yesterday that there will be other organizational changes as a result of the MAI recommendations.

He cited, for example, the Division of Sports and Recreation under DCCA. MAI recommends that the sports division be removed under DCCA.

Inos said the "biggest challenge" is identifying the best agency to take over the maintenance of sports facilities.

He said the administration would have liked more desk audits to be conducted but there's no federal or local funding for it at this time. The MAI desk audit was funded by the Interior Department.

bune yesterday.

Among the priorities is to get more pediatricians to fully open the children's clinic. The unit was temporarily closed in November due to the lack of physicians.

Right now, CHC only has two pediatricians, Muña said, which is just enough for the hospital's inpatient and emergency on-call.

The children's clinic was partially reopened in February to provide limited services, including suture removal, dressing changes, Bicillin shots, and intravenous immunoglobulin. Muña said that "limited" services means patients do not necessarily need to see a doctor and services can be administered by nurses and are considered follow-up cases.

Muna said that CHC is also on its way to getting a psychiatrist, a social worker for the hemodialysis center, and a nephrologist.

More doctors are still needed, though, to achieve desired staffing levels. Recruitment and hiring is an ongoing process and more positions are expected to be filled within the year.

CNMI, DPS honor 12 comrades

The CNMI, Department of Public Safety, and the Commonwealth Ports Authority paid tribute yesterday to 12 DPS officers who lost their lives or who were injured or disabled in the line of duty.

Families and officers presented candles and wreaths during the peace memorial service at the DPS compound in Susupe.

The DPS Tactical Response Enforcement Team also offered a 21-gun salute.

In remembering their heroism and dedication to the call of duty, Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos said that people must also call to mind the sacrifices of family members.

"It is only fitting that we recognize the mothers and fathers, husbands and wives, sons and daughters who were left behind to endure while searching for answers to their tragedies," Inos said.

He said officers put on a

badge everyday, symbolizing their commitment to serve and protect Commonwealth citizens.

"In fulfilling that commitment, they gave their very best for us. Today, we honor them not for how they died or how they got injured; we honor them for how they lived," Inos said.

The DPS fallen includes captains Justino T. Arriola, and Tommy Alexander, police officers Abraham S. Quitugua, Erlise C. Santos, Gilbert M. Taisacan, and Wilgene T. Lieta,

sergeant Julian A. Manglona, and resident director John T. Barcinas.

Disabled or injured in the line of duty were police sergeant Antonio SN. Muna, and police officers Marvin S. Camacho, Jose Cepeda, and Victor M. Hocog. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

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Diverse crowd attends band, choral concert

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

A widely diverse audience watched the Saipan Pacific Winds Concert band as they performed in a concert with various choral groups for the first time at the American Memorial Park Amphitheater on May 15.

The Americana-themed concert, dubbed "From Sea to Shining Sea," featured the Kagman High Choir, Mariana High School Chorale, People in the Park, The Rocketeers, and the Vocal Explosion.

Under the direction of conductors Christina Nierras and Will DeWitt, the

Saipan Pacific Winds played an array of pieces, including *Glee Showstoppers*, *The Story of Mumble Happy Feet*, *Avatar Soundtrack Highlights*, and *Bayou Breakdown*, which they played in this year's Tumon Bay Music Festival in Guam.

Some 10 members of the Saipan Southern High School Advanced Band also joined the 55-member band and performed publicly for the first time.

The 55-member band, which is now on its 17th season, ended its performance with an old-fashioned *American Salute* to pay tribute not only to service personnel such as policemen, firefighters, and soldiers but to all those who go

to work and school every day and are "happy to live in a beautiful island."

In an interview after the concert, DeWitt lauded Friends of the Arts for organizing a "wonderful concert."

"I always tell our band members that there's no such thing as a perfect performance," he told *Saipan Tribune*. "Just give your best and enjoy the show. We hope our audience liked it."

DeWitt said they welcome those who want to become part of the band. "We welcome anyone to the band as long as they are committed to practice with us every Monday from 6pm to 8pm at the Saipan Southern High Band Room. We never turn down

anyone," he added.

Those who want to join the band may call 237-3722 or email willde-witt@aol.com.

DeWitt said their next public performance will be at the Memorial Day celebration in Marpi.

"I couldn't ask for more talented singers and musicians," said park ranger Susan Fishman-Tudor. "All the choral groups and the Saipan Pacific Winds were beyond my expectations."

Fishman-Tudor, who is also the FOA president, said the weather and the

beauty of the park complemented the "fabulous performances."

"It is a dream of mine that Friends of the Arts will continue to present a variety of concerts in the park to provide entertainment to the public," she added.

The free concert was sponsored by the American Memorial Park, Bridge Capital, Island Equipment Rental, IT&E, PHI Pharmacy, *Saipan Tribune*, *Marianas Variety*, Tan Holdings, Tooth Works, Pacific Islands Club, and White Coconut Computer Services.

2 men arrested on Rota for shovel, wooden stick attack

Police arrested last week two men who allegedly assaulted another person with a shovel and a wooden stick outside a residence on Rota.

William Thomas Pendergrass II, 20, and Jerome Pluhs Fujihira, 21, were arrested Thursday afternoon in Sinapalo, Rota for assault and battery, assault with a dangerous weapon, and disturbing the peace.

The alleged victim, Serafin M. Ogo, reportedly sustained a fractured right arm and an abrasion to the head. He was treated at the Rota Health Center.

Pendergrass and Fujihira were taken to the Saipan Superior Court Friday afternoon. Bail was set at \$25,000 cash each.

Pendergrass was temporarily released yesterday afternoon. Associate judge Kenneth L. Govendo accepted the family's piece of land on Rota as property bond to secure the Pendergrass' release. Pendergrass's father was named third party custodian.

Attorney Michael Evangelista, counsel for Pendergrass, told *Saipan Tribune* that his client looks forward to uniting with his family and getting back to his job.

Evangelista said Pendergrass was detained in the last four days for an incident where he had also filed a counter-complaint, but nothing has been done by the

Rota Department of Public Safety yet.

The lawyer urged Rota DPS to thoroughly investigate his client's counter-complaint.

"Apparently, there has been other incidents, also reported to DPS Rota, where the alleged victim in our case was the aggressor, as he was in our case. Anyone would react the same way my client did if you see a machete-toting, rock-throwing attacker coming toward you in a very aggressive manner," Evangelista said.

Sgt. Jonathan D.L.C. Garces stated in his report that, on April 25 at 4:14pm, two police officers responded to a residence in Sinapalo I, Rota, after learning about a fight.

Garces said during a police officer's interview, Ogo stated that he was at the residence of David M. Santos at 3pm when Pendergrass and Fujihira arrived in a pickup truck. Ogo, who said he was outside the kitchen, asked Pendergrass, "What's up?"

Ogo said that Pendergrass got a shovel from the truck's bed and approached him. Ogo took a machete from the kitchen roof, but Santos took it away from him so he picked up rocks.

As Pendergrass and Fujihira approached him, Ogo said he threw about three to four rocks at them.

Pendergrass then allegedly hit Ogo on the wrist and on the head with the shovel. Ogo said he ran toward the kitchen and he felt something hit him from behind.

Santos stopped the fight. Both suspects then fled before police came.

Santos said he saw Pendergrass with a shovel and Fujihira had a wooden stick. The witness said the suspects started hitting Ogo with their weapons. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**

DPW official pleads guilty to extortion

A Department of Public Works building code inspector who is facing an extortion case in federal court entered a guilty plea yesterday.

Thomas S. Salas pleaded guilty to one count of extortion under color of official right. He will be sentenced on Aug. 18, 2011 at 9am.

According to the indictment, Salas used his position with DPW to demand bribes from the owner of a printing press in exchange for not imposing building code violation fines.

FBI agents arrested Salas on Sept. 7, 2010.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Eric O'Malley is representing the U.S. government in this case. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**

REVENUE

From Page 1

These figures are contained in acting Finance secretary Larrisa Larson's financial report to the Legislature and are based on the revised budget of \$122 million instead of \$132 million.

Even with the revised budget for 2011, the total deficit in the first half of the year totaled \$1,745,023. This is, however, below Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos' earlier estimate of \$3 million.

Larson, in her report, said actual revenue in the first half of the year totaled only \$56,540,964, which was \$1,087 or almost 2 percent below the estimate of \$57,628,750.

"A closer inspection of the individual revenue items shows that, with the exception of hospital collection and a few minor areas, virtually all items of revenue either exceeded the budget or were within range of the estimates," Larson said in her letter to Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) and House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan).

Were it not for the hospital collection—which was \$3.319 million less than estimate—Larson said there would have been a surplus in the first half of the year.

"The management of Commonwealth Health Center has been in-

formed of the condition of the hospital financials and urged to bring billing activities current and step up collection efforts," Larson said.

Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee chair Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota) said yesterday that the financial report for the first half of fiscal year 2011 is critical in reviewing the 2012 budget.

House Ways and Means Committee chair Ray Basa (Cov-Saipan) said they wanted to see whether CHC would really be turned into a corporation because this in itself will affect the projected budget for 2012.

Fital's 2012 budget submission is only \$102 million instead of \$120 million. This is because the \$18 million was projected CHC revenue, which will no longer be part of the general fund as it is expected to become a corporation as early as July or as late as Oct. 1.

Larson also said actual collection from corporation tax was also below the estimate by almost \$800,000.

"This may be the result of lower taxable income due to increases in the cost of doing business, especially utilities expense," she said.

Spending and obligations

Larson said total expenditures for the first six months of the year exceeded total allotments by \$657,236.

Total personnel spending for the pe-

riod was within the budget allotment of \$188,599.

But total expenditures and obligations under the "all others" category exceeded allotments by \$845,835.

This resulted in a net overexpenditure or "deficit" of \$657,236.

"The gross overexpenditure was contributed primarily by the Department of Public Health operations, including medical referral and operations at the Commonwealth Health Center," Larson said.

She noted that if the allotments were based on the revised budget of \$122 million and allocated retroactively to the first two quarters of the fiscal year, the excess expenditures for the first two quarters would have been significantly higher.

Allotments for the second half of the year have since been adjusted to reflect the revised budget level at \$122 million.

"Accordingly, obligations and expenditures for the revised second half of the fiscal year will be severely reduced," Larson added.

Unlike the House, the Senate has yet to concur with the administration's reduced monthly allotment.

While the Judiciary posted an overexpenditure or deficit of \$54,217 and the Executive Branch also a deficit mainly because of DPH in the first half of the year, the Legislature spent below its allotment by almost \$232,000.

CHC

From Page 1

pital billings and will not make any collection from any accounts. As a process, CHC will turn over accounts for the company to do the initial billing statements.

"They will get a certain percentage of what is paid. If not paid, they don't get anything. For CHC, it will help reduce our backlogs and would bring in the revenue," said Muña, adding that the cash-strapped department is not spending anything to hire the company.

According to Muña, GMCA has certified coders and has enough personnel to perform the task. The firm was selected through a request for proposals.

CHC has only one coder each at its inpatient and outpatient sections; only four are assigned at the billing section. Tapping the services of GMCA will

help CHC realize the improvement it desires for the system, said Muña.

"We're identifying the gaps [in our operation] and this is one of those," she added.

Muna admitted that because of "add-ons" in the patients' billings, the additional costs become part of the hospital's aging collectibles.

There are some procedures and standards established for the billing system, which includes the 30-day turnaround time for the billing firm to send everything to patients.

"What we are trying to collect [from these accounts] are the costs we expended for them. Services have been rendered and we need reimbursement," added Muña.

Come Oct. 1, the department will start operating as a corporation run by a board. As such, the hospital is expected to become self-sufficient, relying on its own revenue and collections.

MAN'AMKO

From Page 1

The audience laughed at jokes and gave the *man'amko* a round of applause for showcasing their talents during the show held at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe on May 13.

Among the performances were Moni Hermes and Joe Torres' comedy acts, Felisa Baza's dance showdown with guest performer Brandon Manglona of the U.S. Air Force, Jesus Pangelinan's guitar playing, and group cultural dances.

Joeten Charitable Foundation president Frances Demapan, who watched the show with husband Chief Justice Miguel Demapan, said the *man'amko* "look and feel so young."

"The show was a wonderful event where you bring out the real talent of the elderly because somehow, we're always underestimating them," she said.

Demapan urged the public to show their support for the *man'amko* by attending their events. "A lot of them are good models for the community," she added.

Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan), who danced the cha-cha with some of the *man'amko*, lauded program coordinator Walter Manglona for helping organize the show.

"He has given a lot for the *man'amko*. Even tonight, he's done a great job," he said.

Palacios said the *man'amko* should make the talent show at least twice a year since it's a good form of exercise for the elderly.

"The show only demonstrated that we really have a diversified group of talented *man'amko* on Saipan," he added.

Manglona, in an interview after the show, said he was surprised at the large turnout for the event, which was more than what they had during the last talent show.

"I'm very, very happy that it turned out positively. The feedback we got from the crowd is really great. It only shows that our *man'amko* are really awesome and talented," he said.

Proceeds from the show, Manglona said, will be used to enhance the various programs offered for all the *man'amko* at the Aging Center.

JUDGE

From Page 1

away. New CUC poles distance at 150 feet apart."

Govendo said the government argues that this note in a schematic drawing as an appendix to a major siting permit application package that emphasizes on-site power generation "is somehow public notice" of the plan to erect 44 or more power poles.

Govendo said the government further argues that Friends of Marpi should have objected at the Coastal Resources Management public hearing on the proposed cemetery and are now barred from complaining about it.

"This logic is ludicrous," said the judge in his opinion that granted Friends

of Marpi and co-plaintiffs' request for a preliminary injunctive relief.

Last May 3, Govendo orally granted the preliminary injunction that momentarily stops for 90 days the CNMI government from completing the power poles project.

In his written opinion, Govendo pointed out that upon review of the record, there is no question that plaintiffs have put forward a case that shows a probability of success on the merits.

Govendo said the CNMI government and co-defendants have not done an environmental impact or assessment on the installation of the power poles in Marpi.

"Moreover, the general public was not given a chance to voice out their opinions and concerns as no public hearing was held," he added.

ANNUNCIO – ARONGORONG ANNOUNCEMENT

**YOUR COMMENTS ARE
MOST WELCOME:**

VR FY - 2012 State Plan Goals

Goal 1. Deliver quality and timely services to applicants and consumers.

Goal 2. Serve as an advocate for individuals with disabilities.

Goal 3. Continue to work closely with the Workforce Investment Board to maintain and improve the best features of our workforce development system and to initiate efforts to integrate services for consumers.

Goal 4. Facilitate and ensure the seamless transition of students with disabilities to employment or continued education.

Goal 5. Maintain a comprehensive system of personnel development to ensure adequate qualified rehabilitation personnel.

Goal 6. Update of Policies and Procedures.

**Margarita R. Olopai-Taitano
OVR Director**

**Jesus Elameto
SRC Chairperson**



The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) in partnership with the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC), will be



conducting statewide public forums on **FY 2012 State Plan for Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Services**. YOU are ALL invited and encouraged to please participate in the scheduled public forums. The forums will provide opportunities for public comments on how well services are met and what need to be strengthened in our State Plans. Let us know how best the **Office of Vocational Rehabilitation** shall and should serve people with disabilities residing in Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. What barriers exist that currently prevent our people with disabilities from getting or keeping a job? More importantly, recommend solutions to those barriers. **Overall, how can OVR and our local communities work together to prepare, secure, and maintain employment and promote independence for and among eligible people with disabilities?**

Community Forum on VR State Plan FY 2012

ROTA

May 23, 2011

As Paris
Songsong Village

**Time: 11:00 am to
2:00 pm**

SAIPAN

May 24, 2011

Saipan Chamber of
Commerce Conf.
Room, Family Bldg.,
Garapan
(NORTH OF BANK OF
SAIPAN, GARAPAN
BRANCH)

**Time: 5:30 pm to
7:30 pm**

TINIAN

May 25, 2011

Tinian Dynasty
Hotel & Casino,
San Jose Village

**Time: 11:00 am to
2:00 pm**

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION: If you require reasonable accommodation (e.g., large print, sign language interpreter) to participate in the public forums, please contact the OVR Council Liaison Elvira Seman at least 2 days before the scheduled forums. Copies of the plans can be accessed at the OVR website or obtain copies at the OVR Main Office at Navy Hill Bldg. N-2.

Office of Vocational Rehabilitation
TEL: 322-6537/8 TTY: 322-6449 FAX: 322-6536
PO Box 501521 Saipan, MP 96950
Email: nmidir@ovrgov.net
Website: www.ovrgov.net

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Office of the Special Education and Rehabilitation Services (OSERS).

Five trained by certified canine instructor

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A certified canine instructor with the U.S. Department of Agriculture has trained five individuals who will be part of the long-awaited Dog Control Program of the Saipan Mayor's Office.

Marja Onni, canine supervisor of the Brown Tree Snake program under the CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife, said she conducted the

two-week K-9 Behavior and Health Training course, which concluded on May 6.

Five individuals who completed the course—Richard Santos, Harvey Matagolai, Antonio S. Reyes, James Villagomez, and Darren Flores—were awarded the Asia-Pacific canine certificates of training in a ceremony at the Mayor's Office in San Antonio on May 13.

Onni said the Dog Control Program cannot be fully implemented unless those involved

receive proper training in handling and dealing with dogs.

"The students were very motivated. They really want to go out there and do good with this program. Motivation is very important in this training," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

Onni, who has been on Saipan for 14 years and has done dog training for different purposes in Palau, American Samoa, and other islands, emphasized the importance of the dog control program on island.

"Dogs, especially stray dogs, have diseases if they don't receive vaccination. That's why people are in danger," she explained.

According to Onni, dogs that are uncared for and do not experience human touch become wild and could potentially harm and even kill people.

"That's where the risk comes in. They are born in the wild so they turn into wild dogs once again," she said.

Onni said the implementation

of the dog control program will also create a good impression of the island among tourists.

She disclosed that the completed course is only the first training that the dog control program staff have to go through. Once the dog kennel facility is constructed, Onni said she plans to hold a dog adoption and obedience training.

Mayor Donald G. Flores and Dog Control Program director Ray B. Lizama presented Onni a certificate of appreciation for

volunteering her services.

"We want to make sure that our staff is well-equipped that is why proper training was conducted. We want them to deal with dogs and dog owners professionally and not make mistakes as much as possible," said Flores.

Lizama added, "It is important to enhance ourselves with proper tools and skills to execute our job. Our main concern is safety for our staff and for the community."

140 take part in SOPHIA-Fiesta Walk/Run

Winners of the SOPHIA-Fiesta Walk and Fun Run pose for a group photo after receiving their medals and \$100 cash prizes during the awarding ceremony at the Fiesta Resort & Spa's Ocean View on Sunday morning.



By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A total of 140 individuals took part in the 12th SOPHIA-Fiesta Walk/Run on May 15, with

walkers and runners of various ages registering as early as 6am.

Fiesta Resort & Spa in Garapan served as the starting point for the annual event organized by the Marianas Walking As-

sociation.

Sponsors were Fiesta Resort & Spa, Tan Holdings, Saipan Grand Hotel, Pacific Development Inc., KKMP, and Rota Water.

The event involved 5K and 10K routes. The turning point for 5K was across the Saipan Gold Beach Hotel; the 10K was across the Marianas Visitors Authority office in San Jose.

Medals and \$100 cash prizes were each given to all category winners. The 5K winners were Braylan Floresca who finished in a time 21:57 and Geneva Crisostomo who clocked in at 35:24.

Tamio Nishikido was the fastest male in the 10K category

with 46:23. Akiko Miller, who ran as she pushed her son in his stroller, bested other females with a time of 49:18.

Noboru Hirayami was declared the oldest participant at 80 years old, while the SOPHIA Walk group from Japan, composed of 14 members including four Rotary exchange students, won the biggest group award.

Folding chairs were also given away during the raffle draw held at the Fiesta Resort's Ocean View where the organiz-

ers served a light breakfast and gave away goody bags for all participants.

Marianas Walking Association president Yoichi Matsumura said that, although they had fewer participants this year, they are still happy about the turnout.

"I thank all of them for taking part in this event. We hope to see them again next year," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Matsumura said they have yet to decide how the proceeds for the event will be used.

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Benigno R. Fitial
Governor

This ad is paid for by NMHC funds.

Eloy S. Inos
Lt. Governor

Notice is hereby given that the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is the agency authorized to allocate Low Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC) in Saipan. The United States 1986 Tax Reform Act created the federal low-income housing tax credit (Credit) under Section 42 of the Internal Revenue Code (Code) to assist the development of low-income rental housing by providing qualified owners with Credit to offset their federal tax obligations. The LIHTC is available to owners/developers of qualifying Buildings and projects that meet certain low-income occupancy and rent restrictions.

Section 42 of the Code provides that CNMI prepare a Qualified Allocation Plan (QAP) to determine housing priorities and to give preference to projects serving the lowest income tenants and projects obligated to serve qualified tenants for the longest periods. The Qualified Allocation Plan must incorporate selection criteria, which includes project location, housing need characteristics, sponsor characteristics, tenant populations with special needs, and public housing waiting lists.

NMHC has developed a QAP and is available at NMHC's office. The QAP describes the basis that NMHC will use to allocate LIHTCs. NMHC may allocate \$2,430,000.00 in LIHTCs for the 2010 program year and \$2,465,000 for the 2011 program year.

Application for LIHTCs

Owners/Developers wishing to apply for the LIHTCs should obtain and complete a LIHTC Application. The LIHTC Application may be obtained from NMHC's Office in Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950.

Owners/Developers must file the completed LIHTC Application and the **\$1,000.00 Application Fee** in NMHC's Office by the Application Deadline of **4:30 pm, May 31, 2011**. NMHC staff will review the application and will notify the Owner/Developer of any deficiencies by **June 7, 2011**. The owner/developer will be given 10 days to correct any deficiencies. Any corrections or supplemental information requested by NMHC must be received by **June 17, 2011**. The projects will be scored and recommendations made to the NMHC Board of Directors for approval at its **June 2011** Board Meeting.

Notification of Awards

NMHC will notify Owners/Developers of the projects receiving LIHTCs 30 days following the June 2011 Board of Directors meeting. Owners/Developers will then have 30 days to complete their market study to meet the requirements. The reservation letter must be signed and returned to NMHC by no later than the submission of the market study.

For more information on this program, please contact NMHC at 234-6866/7670/7689/9447.

/s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director

NMHC will make necessary arrangement for persons with disabilities or persons requiring interpreters upon prior notification. Should you require such arrangement, please contact Ms. Jocelyn Kaipat at telephone numbers 234-6866/7670/7689/9447.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Flotilla 29 re-established to ensure boating safety

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

After being inactive for a couple of years, Flotilla 29 of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Saipan was re-established on May 1 to promote and ensure recreational boating safety on island last.

Commodore Burkhard L. Berger of the 14th District Coast Guard Auxiliary in Hawaii flew to Saipan Thursday for the re-establishment ceremony of the 18-member team.

"I'm very proud to see volunteers here on Saipan supporting the Coast Guard and the boating community on this island. I know a lot of folks here on island go out fishing or just for fun and it's important that they return safe. That's our mission," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Berger said that part of their mission is to educate the boating public and conduct voluntary safety checks on their boats.

"There are federal requirements that must be met on every boat. If they're not met... they get fined. We volunteer to do those boating checks. There's no charge, no fines, and there's no citations," he said, adding



Commodore Burkhard L. Berger, left, of the 14th District Coast Guard Auxiliary, swears in Dennis Chapla and Fernando Camacho as the flotilla commander and vice commander, respectively, for the re-established Flotilla 29 of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Saipan in a ceremony last May 12.

that boaters only need to contact the Auxiliary team to avail of the boating checks.

During the ceremony, Berger also swore in Dennis Chapla as the new flotilla commander and Fernando Camacho as vice commander.

"We're looking forward to building a bigger and better flotilla here and being of great help to the Coast Guard office

here on Saipan," Berger, who has been with the Auxiliary for three years, said in an interview.

Camacho said the re-establishment of the flotilla will "help them move forward" to ensure the safety of the boating public.

Certificates were also awarded to the volunteers who have undergone levels of training required among all Auxiliary members.

Lang urged to initiate signature drive on Saipan casino plan

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Senate Vice President Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian) urged Rep. Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) yesterday to initiate a signature drive to put the Saipan casino issue on the ballot instead of pushing for a local measure to legalize casino gambling on island.

"I encourage the former governor, Rep. Froilan Tenorio, to start routing a petition so he can put it on popular initiative

so that voters can decide on legalizing casino gambling on Saipan," Hofschneider said.

But Tenorio, in a separate interview, said he would not initiate a signature drive but is banking on the 21-member Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation's passage of a local bill on Saipan casino.

Tenorio, whose House bill on Saipan casino was killed by the Senate last year, said it would be difficult for a casino initiative to get Saipan voters' approval for

two major reasons.

First, the initiative will take time because they will have to wait for the 2012 election to put the question before voters.

Second, Tenorio said it will be difficult to get the approval of at least two-thirds of the registered voters on Saipan because the voter turnout alone is expected to be low.

"It's not based on votes cast, but number of registered voters," he added.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) earlier said the Senate will take the matter to court if and when the Saipan delegation passes the local bill, which he said is "unconstitutional."

Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan), author of the contro-

versial local bill, said yesterday that if the Senate really takes the matter to court, then he would help initiate a signature drive to put the question on the ballot.

He also said that "it's not for the Tinian delegation to decide" on the Saipan casino bill.

"We never tell them what to do in their district," he said.

Saipan delegation chair Ray Tebuteb (R-Saipan) said yesterday that during their session

Thursday morning, he will ask members what they want to do with Torres' bill—whether to act on it right away or conduct public hearings.

Members interviewed, including Torres and minority leader Diego Benavente (R-Saipan) said there should be public hearings on the local bill.

Torres and Tenorio said the local casino bill has enough votes to pass the delegation.

NMI Humanities Council hosts annual Junior High Mock Trial

The public is invited to attend the Junior High Mock Trial at the Guma' Hustisia today, May 17, beginning at 1pm. The event will feature five schools in four matches.

The program will feature the following pairings: (1) Whispering Palms vs. Mount Carmel School; (2) Dr. Rita Inos Jr. High School vs. Hopwood Jr. High School; (3) Hopwood Jr. High School vs. GCA (Rota); and (4) GCA (Rota) vs. Hopwood Jr. High School.

Each participating mock trial team is headed by a teacher coach and has received periodic legal advice and guidance from a lawyer coach.

The program uses modified rules for junior high students and will feature a case that explores the religious clauses of

the First Amendment. The same case was used in this year's high school competition.

Former representative Joseph N. Camacho will serve as the trial judge. At the conclusion of the program, Camacho will recognize exceptional performances by student lawyers and witnesses.

The junior high mock trial program is held annually to help junior high school students develop useful knowledge about the law and courtroom procedures and to encourage an early interest in the high school competition.

This event is open and free to the public. For more information, contact Merced Ada at 235-4785/7 or visit the Council website at www.nmihumanities.org. (PR)

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan) is pushing for an override of Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's veto of a Senate bill authorizing the Bureau of Motor Vehicles to establish a student driver education program.

Torres requested Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) yesterday to initiate an override action on the governor's veto of Senate Bill 17-20, citing four reasons, including the fact that the bill "did not" mandate the immediate creation of a driver's

education program within BMV and that 50 percent of the collected fees would fund not only BMV's driving school but also the bureau's other programs and operations.

Torres also said the governor "did not consider the most important part" of the bill, Section 2, which created an alternative driver's education program using a "stateside method that fits in with the island way of teaching young drivers via family and relatives."

He said a driver who is 15 ½ years old pays for a driver learner's permit and is permitted to

drive with a licensed adult.

"This provides sound driving experience through the care and concern of the young driver's elders, and it is less expensive for many island families experiencing financial turmoil," Torres said.

He also said that the private driving school can still operate and offer its driver education program to those who wish to pay \$350.

"We, the members of the House of Representatives, have an obligation to hear the pleas of many of our island residents, who have been requesting an alternative plan to the expen-

sive driver's school on Saipan. Furthermore, is it fair that the young drivers on Tinian and Rota do not have to pay for this expensive education to legally drive a car, while our Saipan youths suffer?" Torres added.

This early, Torres' proposal is drawing support from his colleagues in the House of Representatives, including minority leader Diego Benavente (R-Saipan) and Rep. Fred Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan).

Senate floor leader Pete Reyes (R-Saipan), author of the vetoed bill, said the Senate will wait for any House action on the bill.

Checks now out for appliance rebate program participants

Reimbursement checks for individuals who have bought qualified Energy Star-rated appliances under the State Energy Efficient Appliance Rebate Program are now being distributed at the Division of Energy Office, located at House 1337, Ascension Drive, Capital Hill.

Office hours are from 7:30am to 4:30pm, except legal holidays.

For Rota recipients, reimbursement checks will be distributed on Saturday, May 21, 2011, at the Rota ACE Store from 9am to 5pm.

For Tinian recipients, reimbursement checks will be dis-

tributed on Tuesday, May 24, 2011, at the Tinian Mayor's Office from 9am to 5pm.

For any Rota and Tinian recipient wishing to pick up their check before the dates above, just visit the Division of Energy Office on Capital Hill.

In order to receive your reim-

bursment check, you must present a valid CNMI driver's license, U.S. passport, or any other valid CNMI I.D. For individuals wishing to send relatives to pick up checks, inform the Energy Office in advance so that arrangements may be made to release checks to authorized individuals. (PR)

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MPS Squadron Three has new commander

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Maritime Prepositioning Ships Squadron Three, which is responsible for tactical control of ships of the Military Sealift Prepositioning Program in the CNMI and the rest of the Western Pacific Ocean, has a new commander.

Capt. Deidre L. McLay, a Surface Warfare Officer from Boulder City in Nevada, relieved Hawaii native Capt. Herman T. K. Awai in a change of command ceremony held at the American Memorial Park Visitors Center yesterday morning.

McLay graduated with honors from the University of Colorado in 1986 with a degree in civil engineering. She earned a master's degree in operations research from the Naval Post-



graduate School and a master's in National Security and Strategic

Studies from the U.S. Naval War College.

She was commissioned via the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps program.

"I liked the Navy well enough so I just stayed in," McLay told *Saipan Tribune*.

McLay's sea assignments include duty in destroyers, amphibious, and logistics ships in both the Pacific and Atlantic Fleets.

She congratulated Awai for his excellent tour and for doing a "wonderful job" of being involved in the island community.

"I hope to continue the same generosity of spirit, becoming part of the community of Saipan and working with all the different organizations here," added the new commander.

When asked about what she sees as the biggest challenge in her new task, McLay quipped: "I think the biggest challenge is going to be to not play all the time but to actually do my official work."

She said she will renew her scuba diving qualifications, learn about the island's flora and fauna, and do other fun activities on Saipan such as golfing and sightseeing.

The ceremony, attended by officials and staff of the MPS Squadron Three and other community members, was led by Capt. Charles Denman, commander of the Military Sealift Command Far East located in Singapore.

Denman, who shared with the audience an amusing account of Awai's restaurant advice in Korea, described him as "a true friend" and an "outstanding commander."

"[Awai] is truly a leader. He inspired me a lot. We got a lot of things done in helping our community," said Ruth Coleman of the CNMI Military and Veterans Affairs Office.

Coleman said her office will extend McLay the same assistance they gave to Awai. "We will assist her in any way and make her transition as smooth as possible."

In his remarks, Awai said he has always viewed his job akin

to growing the *ohana*, the Hawaiian term for family.

"I have no farewell speech prepared today, just many thanks. That's because I know that one day, I will return to Saipan. I have nothing but fond memories of Saipan and the unforgettable people. It has been a distinct honor and privilege to have been associated with this *ohana*," said Awai who assumed command of MPS Squadron Three in May 2010.

In an interview after the ceremony, Awai said that leaving Saipan after a year is "really tough."

"You get to know the people, you get to know the area, you got all the support from the community. It's hard to leave that. But I've been away from my family for a year so I'm anxious to get back," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Awai said he'll miss Saipan's beauty the most, especially in May when flame trees are in bloom and events such as the Taste of the Marianas take place.

He looks forward to having a barbecue once he goes back to Hawaii. "Being on the ship, you don't have the opportunity. You have barbecues on the ship but not like in the yard where there's grass and kids running around, that type of enjoyment."

Awai, who has worked with McLay in the past, described her as well qualified to lead the squadron and advised her to trust her staff and enjoy her new post.

"She's definitely got the capabilities and she's got a good staff. I'm sure she's going to enjoy the job and enjoy the locations," he added.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

May 17, 1999

CPA eyes higher port rental fees

Increasing leases at the seaport, establishing a new coffee shop and imposing parking fees at the airport are just some of the revenue-generating measures which the Commonwealth Ports Authority will undertake this year to raise the needed money for its debt payment. With the completion of the \$43 million Saipan Harbor Improvement Project, the ports authority will begin reviewing the lease agreement with its various tenants for higher rental payment. Board chairman Roman S. Palacios said the current lease agreement provides for a renegotiation once the seaport is equipped with modern facilities. Aside from having a 2,600 linear feet of berthing space and a 22-acre container yard, the harbor now is minus 40 ft. deep. In addition, the channel, turning basin and berthing area have been expanded to accommodate a large number and greater variety of vessels.

Hosting FAS citizens costs CNMI \$12 M

Housing and providing education and medical services to migrants from the Freely Associated States has cost the CNMI government close to \$12 million in 1998, according to preliminary figures from the government. The figures were released ahead of talks between FAS and the United States on the Compact of Free Association, which provided for an open migration policy. The accord, signed in 1986, has allowed FAS citizens unrestricted entry to the US mainland and its territories, including the Northern Marianas and Guam. It also provides reimbursement for the expenses that will be incurred by host territories for accommodating nationals from neighboring islands.

May 17, 2000

MVA clarifies report on resumption of Nagoya-Saipan flight

The Marianas Visitors Authority yesterday sought to clear earlier reports that Continental Airlines will revive the Nagoya-Saipan direct service. Contrary to earlier reports, Continental is still reviewing its statistics before making a decision on whether or not it will resume direct service to the CNMI. The airline dropped its Nagoya-Saipan service on Oct. 1, 1999 which tourism officials said hindered efforts to revive the ailing tourism economy. But Continental claimed that its decision to terminate direct flights to Saipan will not have any effect on the tourism industry.

PSS busing service appeals for community cooperation

The Public School System Pupil Transportation Services is asking the PSS administration to restrict students' bus pick-up to cover only primary roads. This is to mitigate further damage Saipan's secondary rough roads have done to the poor state of PSS' old buses, according to Administrative Service's Jess Sanchez. Mr. Sanchez is urging parents to meet PSS halfway by having the children ready on bus stops located at primary roads nearest them.

May 17, 2001

CNMI wants US-collected fines returned

In a desperate attempt to refill government coffers, the Legislature is looking at the possibility of collecting back from the US Occupational Safety and Health Administration millions of dollars in fines previously assessed CNMI-based companies. At present, the CNMI Legislature's legal department is reviewing possible means that would make the hefty fines collected by OSHA available to the local government. OSHA has been collecting fines from CNMI-based companies found in violation of federal occupational safety and health standards. Rep. Dino Jones believes a big portion of fines collected by OSHA from local companies should have been deposited in the Commonwealth government's General Fund for local use.

DPW generates \$200K from tipping fees

Implementation of the tipping system in Puerto Rico dump generated more than \$200,000 in additional government revenues since late last year, according to the Department of Public Works. Solid Waste Division Director John Harder said the imposition of tipping fees since October provided DPW additional funds to handle maintenance and operational costs of the dumpsite. Fees imposed largely depend on garbage tonnage and household refuse were given discounted rates. Minimum fee is pegged at \$10 per ton. The money was deposited to the Commonwealth General Fund. Money collected out of tipping fees is used to defray maintenance, personnel and operational expenditures.

Can you identify?

THE NMI Council for the Humanities, in collaboration with the *Saipan Tribune*, is running a series of photographs in this section every Tuesday and is inviting the public to identify the persons or places featured in this section.



If you can identify the persons or places in the picture, please contact the NMI Council for the Humanities by telephone (235-4785), via email (photo@nmihumanities.org) or by visiting the Council's office located in Springs Plaza, Gualo Rai. These images are from the Council's Historic Photograph Database which is currently being developed to help document the history and cultures of the CNMI.



The girls pictured in the last column were not identified.

Investor's suit vs Quichocho, wife dismissed anew

Due to budget cuts, NMC revises summer schedule

In light of further budget reductions from the central government and other projected financial shortfalls, the Northern Marianas College announced yesterday that changes would be made to its summer session schedule to reduce expenses for the current fiscal year.

The changes include limiting the number of sessions offered during summer. Usually, there are four different summer sessions: regular summer session, extended summer session, summer session 1, and summer session 2. The revised schedule has only one session that will run six weeks long.

"Unfortunately, the reduced allocations from the central government has compelled the college to take significant steps in order to avoid a deep budget deficit at the end of the 2011 fiscal year," said interim president Lorraine T. Cabrera.

"After meeting with the college's key management team members and the leaders of each of the academic departments, we felt that limiting the summer session offerings was one of the ways the college could lessen expenses without affecting instructional quality," Cabrera added.

The Office of Management and Budget earlier informed Cabrera that NMC's budget allotment for the remainder of the fiscal year would be re-

duced by 7.58 percent, or by about \$340,000. Accordingly, the OMB office requested the college to "adjust expenditure rate for your activities to ensure spending is within the adjusted allocation."

Despite the changes to the summer session, no changes to the fall 2011 semester have been made and recruitment for the new academic year in August is proceeding as usual.

"It's also important to note that the college's revised summer session in no way diminishes our accreditation efforts," said Cabrera. "We are still moving at full speed to ensure that we meet accreditation standards and eligibility requirements."

Cabrera indicated that the college will be sending representatives to next month's meeting of the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges. Commission members will be reviewing, among other things, the report from the team who recently visited the NMC campus last month.

The schedule changes for the summer do not affect the NMC's Nursing program. For more information about the revised summer session schedule, visit nmcnet.edu or contact the Office of Admissions and Records at 234-5498 Ext. 1528. (NMC)

» Judge allows plaintiff to file 3rd amended complaint

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The federal court has dismissed anew the racketeering conspiracy claim filed by an investor against attorney Ramon K. Quichocho and his wife.

U.S. District Court for the NMI visiting judge John A. Houston, in his order issued on Thursday, found Jung Ja Kim's second amended complaint still deficient. He allowed Kim, however, to file a third amended complaint that cures the deficiency within 30 days.

Houston determined that Kim's second amended complaint improperly requires an inference of agreement between defendants, allegations that U.S. District Court for the NMI visiting judge Mark W. Bennett had found lacking.

In the second amended complaint, Kim, through counsel Colin M. Thompson, sued Quichocho and his wife, Fran-

ces Quichocho, the Quichochos' law firm, and the couple's company, Karissa LLC, for violation of the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations, Act, RICO.

Kim is suing Quichocho and his law firm for legal malpractice: professional negligence and breach of fiduciary duty. She is also suing the Quichocho couple and the law office, for breach of lease agreements. In addition, Kim is suing the couple for conversion, fraud, and constructive trust.

The plaintiff is seeking damages, court costs, and attorney's fees and wants the court to establish that all assets, benefits, moneys, or assets received by the Quichochos from Latte Stone LLC and Tan Dingo LLC were held in trust for her benefit.

The lawsuit alleged that the Quichochos directly conducted and participated in the management of the affairs of Latte Stone and Tan Dingo through a

pattern of racketeering activity.

The Quichocho couple, through counsel Michael Dotts, moved to dismiss the racketeering conspiracy claim, asserting that the defects in Kim's conspiracy theory are so pervasive they cannot be cured by repleading, and should therefore be dismissed.

Dotts said Kim added six more paragraphs to her RICO conspiracy claim, but as with the original complaint and the first amended complaint, she "has not successfully asserted a predicate act of racketeering against Karissa LLC and the Quichocho law office."

In granting the motion to dismiss, Houston said he agrees with defendants that the added paragraphs, although properly plead with particularity, do not contain allegations that demonstrate an agreement was made, expressly or indirectly, between the entities, through their members.

"In regards to the Quichochos, this Court finds plaintiff's allegations still fail to specify the individuals agreed between themselves or with others, either expressly or indirectly, to act themselves or through the acts of the entity defendants, in order to commit a violation of RICO," Houston said.

Houston said that Kim's second amended complaint fails to properly allege the necessary agreement to state a claim for RICO conspiracy.

Houston said being mindful of Bennett's warning that plaintiff be given only "one more opportunity to amend her complaint to allege a RICO conspiracy claim, 'this Court notes that the second amended complaint was only Kim's first attempt to cure the deficiency of a lack of an agreement between the defendants since Kim's RICO conspiracy claim contained in her original complaint was dismissed based on other deficiencies, which have now been cured.'"



NMC summer 2011 registration begins tomorrow

Registration for the Northern Marianas College's summer 2011 semester will begin tomorrow, May 18, 2011, and will continue to Friday, May 20, 2011.

New students are required to take an English and Math placement test before they register. The schedule of placement tests and the summer 2011 class schedule can be found online at www.nmc-net.edu.

Those who have not applied for admission can still do so by visiting the college's Office of Admissions and Records and picking up an application form. Application forms can also be downloaded from the NMC website.

Application for admissions will be accepted until the last day of registration provided that both placement tests have been taken.

For more information regarding admissions or registration, contact the OAR at 234-5498 Ext 1537 or email oar@nmcnet.edu, or log on to www.nmc-net.edu. (NMC)

SUMMER 2011 IMPORTANT DATES

- May 18-20: Registration for Summer 2011 Semester
- May 23: First day of instruction
- May 30: Legal holiday, Memorial Day
- July 4: Legal holiday, Liberation Day

English Placement Test Schedule

- May 17: 9am – 6pm, English Lab (Bldg. M)
- May 18: 9am – 4pm, English Lab (Bldg. M)
- May 19: 9am – 6pm, English Lab (Bldg. M)
- May 20: 9am – 4pm, English Lab (Bldg. M)

Math Placement Test Schedule

- May 17: 10am – 12pm, Room A-9
- May 19: 10am – 12pm, Room A-9
- May 19: 5pm – 7pm, Room A-9

PINNING CEREMONY

Northern Marianas College nursing graduation candidates pose for a group photo with NMC nursing instructors and other nursing students during the 2011 NMC Nursing Pinning Ceremony held Saturday, May 14, 2011, at the Saipan Grand Hotel's Seaside Hall. The pinning ceremony is a symbolic welcoming of new nursing graduates into the nursing profession. The nursing graduation candidates will also take part in the college's 31st commencement ceremony on Saturday, May 21, 2011, at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

NMC Tinian Adult School celebrates 2011 graduates

The Northern Marianas College Adult School, a program under the Adult Basic Education on Tinian, recently had its 2011 graduation celebration. The seven graduates were honored during a banquet in which close to 90 family members, friends, and Tinian officials attended.

The 2011 graduates are Tano King, Regino Mundo, Charlie B. Palacios, Khystyne Atalig, Jennielyn Cruz, Eva Johanes

and Dolores Emul. Mundo is also the recipient of the Highest GPA Award.

The Adult School graduates will be attending NMC's 31st Commencement Ceremony on Saipan at the MHS Gym on Saturday, May 21, 2011.

Among those in attendance at the graduation banquet were Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz, Sen. Jude Hofschneider, Sen. Frank Cruz, Sen. Henry San

Nicolas, Councilman Joseph Cruz, and Councilman Steve Cabrera. The educational partners also present were CNMI Board of Education Tinian representative Lucy Blanco Maratita, Tinian High School principal Julian Hofschneider, Tinian Head Start director Evelyn Evangelista, and Workforce Investment Agency Tinian representative Bernie San Nicolas. (NMC)



NMC Adult School Tinian 2011 graduates, from left, Tano King, Charlie Palacios, Jennielyn Cruz, Khystyne Atalig, Eva Johanes, Dolores Emul and Regino Mundo.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

Happy birthday Chellette Mina A. San Nicolas, who is celebrating her special day today, May 17, 2011! May God bless you always. Greetings come from mom, dad, Mal, Shelly, Mikki, and Michael boy! CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday Ramcy Sablan! May you have a wonderful day, full of laughter and fun, and many more enjoyable days to come. We love you. Greetings come from Nina Tasia, Taliyah, Ranasia, Junior, and your entire Cabrera/Sablan family. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXI, Issue No. 115Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
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Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Oil industry reaping benefits on massive campaign contributions

(c) 2011, San Jose Mercury News (San Jose, Calif.)

The day after House Speaker John Boehner demanded trillions in budget cuts in exchange for raising the debt ceiling, Senate Democrats offered him a small down payment Tuesday: a plan to cut \$21 billion in unneeded federal subsidies to the extraordinarily profitable oil industry.

Not surprisingly, Republicans quickly labeled the proposal a tax increase and declined to provide any support, probably dooming the idea. Nonetheless, this debate, along with one in the House over expanded oil drilling, tells us a lot about GOP leaders' real priorities, as opposed to what they say is important.

In the first quarter of 2011, the five largest multinational oil companies made nearly \$36 billion in profits; they need taxpayer support like Warren Buffett needs welfare. Subsidies of this magnitude should be reserved for industries that serve a compelling national interest but are not yet profitable.

And yet Senate Republicans who say debt and deficits are their top priority want to continue funneling taxpayer dollars to companies piling up massive profits, even as Congress cuts funding for food stamps and schools.

As Sen. Claire McCaskill, D-Mo., put it: "If we cannot end subsidies to the five biggest, most profitable corporations in the history of the planet that come from the federal taxpayer, then I don't think anyone should take us seriously about deficit reduction."

She's right. No one should take them seriously.

Far more important to the GOP is rewarding wealthy campaign contributors, and over in the House of Representatives, a plan to expand oil drilling provides further evidence of that.

Just over a year after the Deepwater Horizon explosion in the Gulf of Mexico killed 11 workers and left more than 200 million gallons of crude in the ocean, Congress has not done a single thing to improve oil rig safety. Yet last week, with the help of nearly three dozen Democrats, the GOP majority passed a bill requiring the Obama administration to speed the sale of oil leases in Virginia and the Gulf of Mexico—a process that was slowed to allow for better safety and environmental analyses. Two similar bills are waiting in the wings, one to speed decision-making on all leases and another to open up vast new areas to drilling, including the California coast.

All of this before officials have completed their wide-ranging investigation into the cause of the Gulf disaster and what might have prevented it.

High gas prices give a convenient populist patina to these proposals; "Drill, Baby, Drill" packs more punch when gas costs \$4 a gallon. And yet oil market experts—even those who support more drilling—say any effect on prices would be negligible in the long run, and certainly not felt this summer.

This isn't about lowering gas prices. It's about giving campaign donors a return on their investment. A recent report by the Center for Responsive Politics showed that the 67 co-sponsors of the Restarting American Offshore Leasing Now Act, the bill that passed last week, have received nearly \$9 million from the oil and gas industry in their careers.

If only taxpayers had that kind of sway in Washington.



It's time for Congress to act on border security

Earlier this week I joined President Obama and others in El Paso, Texas, as he reported on the tremendous progress we have made in securing the Southwest border and transforming our immigration enforcement efforts over the last two years even while we wait for Congress to address immigration reform.

I know this border well. I was raised in New Mexico. I have spent most of my adult life in Arizona as the U.S. attorney, attorney general, and as a two-term governor. I have walked the border, flown it, ridden it on horseback, and worked with border communities from Brownsville to San Diego. So I speak from personal experience when I say that the Southwest Border Initiative that we launched in March 2009 is the most comprehensive and dedicated effort to strengthen border security that this country has ever deployed.

We have doubled the size of the Border Patrol from where it was in 2004. There are more Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents at the border than ever before. We have completed all but three miles of fencing called for by Congress. We have strategically deployed thousands of technology assets along the border. For the first time, unmanned aircraft cover the Southwest border from California to Texas—providing critical aerial surveillance assistance to personnel on the ground. And our relationships with our federal, state, local and tribal partners, as well as our counterparts in Mexico, have never been closer or more integrated.

Every statistical measure shows these heightened border enforcement efforts are working. Apprehensions, which is how we measure attempts to cross the border illegally, have decreased by 36 percent in the last two years and are less than a third of their all-time high a decade ago. Over the last two and a half years, we've seized 31 percent more drugs, 75 percent more currency, and 64 percent more weapons than the previous two and a half years. Perhaps most important, crime rates in border communities have held steady or dropped in the past decade and four of the biggest cities in America with the lowest rates of violent crime are in border states—San Diego, Phoenix, El Paso and Austin.

Yet, what happens at the border is inseparable from immigration enforcement in our country's interior. That's why the Department of Homeland Security has transformed our interior enforcement efforts to make them smarter and more effective.

In the last two years, ICE has prioritized the identification and removal of illegal immigrants that pose the greatest threats to our communities and public safety. During this period, the percentage of those removed who are convicted criminals has risen 71 percent.

We are also prioritizing enforcement actions against employers who knowingly hire illegal labor. Since January 2009, we have levied more fines and debarred more employers than during the entire eight years of the previous administration.

Even as we enforce our laws, however, we must acknowledge

By JANET NAPOLITANO
Secretary of Homeland Security

Janet Napolitano is secretary of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.



that the laws themselves need reform. After all, we are a nation of immigrants as well as a nation of laws. And there is no question that we need the talents and contributions of immigrants in order to out-innovate, out-educate, and out-build the rest of the world. This has always been the story of our country, and it will continue to be.

As the president stated in El Paso, we must fix our broken immigration system in order for our country to compete in the 21st century economy. I hear frequently from business leaders that the current immigration system simply does not work in today's global economy, and that we must do more to make it easier for the best and brightest who come to America to attend our world-class universities to remain and start businesses and create jobs in the United States.

Congress must act, and act soon, to change and improve our laws. Some have said reform must wait until we meet benchmarks for border security. Yet, we have met and exceeded these benchmarks.

As the president and I saw in El Paso, the reality is that the Southwest border is simply not the same as it was four years ago, or even two years ago—in terms of manpower, technology and resources. And more is on their way so that our current efforts are sustained and we never again lose control of the border.

The plain fact is that we must fix our immigration laws at the same time as we continue deploying historic levels of resources to the Southwest border. These two requirements—border security and immigration reform—are inextricably intertwined.

Reform will permit the Border Patrol to better focus its resources on illegal immigrants who are national security and public safety threats and will allow ICE to levy penalties that truly deter companies that egregiously and repeatedly violate our immigration laws.

The president and I, as well as other members of the administration, have met with police chiefs, sheriffs, CEO's and community advocates across the nation over the last two and a half years, and the consensus is striking. In order to further strengthen our security, enhance the integrity and fairness of our immigration system, and compete in the 21st century economy, Congress should act. Only with bipartisan congressional action can we comprehensively reform and improve our immigration system.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Obama must keep his presidential eyes on the other prize

By GREGORY CLAY
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON—Now that he has caught the Bad Man from the Badlands, what's next for President Barack Obama? And can he capitalize on whatever that "next" is?

Note the poignant remarks made by highly acclaimed presidential historian and Pulitzer Prize-winning author Doris Kearns Goodwin on NBC's "Meet the Press" on Mother's Day: "... JFK took control of his presidency after the Cuban missile crisis. This guy (Obama) will now take control of his presidency. I think he's going to be able to trust his own judgment even more than the military, and that's huge psychologically. And America feels better again. I mean, that's the huge thing: that we don't know about how long that will last. But our prestige and our sense of ourselves is now heightened for a while, and everybody wants that."

In other words, the U.S. military operation that killed Osama bin Laden essentially gives Obama much valuable—and instant—"street cred" in a political sense. This is the same Obama who was accused of being soft on matters of national security and foreign policy. But he capitalized on the terrorism-fighting foundation set forth by President George W. Bush to eliminate the Most Wanted Man in the world. Some polls conducted after the bin Laden killing show Obama's national popularity has increased by double-digit percentage points.

Now, can he parlay that newfound popularity into his own political mandate? In short, Obama suddenly may have the "cojones," as the ubiquitous Sarah Palin might say, to formulate and advance his own agenda with the utmost confidence. How does a treatise of

"Obama Principles" sound now?

Yes, Obama's high-powered wave of enthusiastic support could be fleeting in a national referendum. But he repelled the naysayers playing the "Obama is as soft as Charmin" game. In fact, Obama proved that he can squeeze the Charmin.

As Robert Kagan, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, said on "Meet the Press" after the bin Laden event, "The American people have an interesting quality in their character which you can trace all through their history: They want their presidents to be men of peace, but they also want to know that, if necessary, the American president can kill."

Kagan's words send a gory, though powerful, image. But he's right: Americans want to know if their commander in chief can "pull the trigger" or "press the red button" or make that all-important "call on the Bat-phone" when we are on the verge of a potential Armageddon, or frantically trying to decapitate a human monster, such as bin Laden.

Yet, Obama has proved that he can authorize a major—and ultimately successful—mission of national security as he did with the bin Laden affair, but there's always that opposite side of the equation. There forever will be a faction of our society (including career politicians and pundits) who wouldn't/who won't give Obama credit for any major national achievement, no matter how crucial to the well being of the United States.

Obama could discover a cure for cancer, lower gasoline prices to 1960s numbers (about 30 cents a gallon), solve Rubik's Cube, catch Bigfoot, recite the principles of Einstein's theory of relativity, broker an eternal peace accord between the Palestinians and the Israelis, and last, but not least, lower the unemployment rate to a

paltry 3.9 percent. He could achieve the above and more and never receive his proper "props" from that certain faction of our society.

All of this means that, despite this rising surge in U.S. solidarity in the wake of bin Laden's death, Obama can't become complacent. He still has to be on his A-game—especially when he seeks re-election in 2012. And that A-game means avoiding the pitfalls of how \$4-per-gallon gasoline and 9 percent unemployment suddenly can undermine a potent re-election bid. Obama's administration may have annihilated bin Laden, but it still must keep a vigilant eye on that other pre-eminent prize: the national economy.

In a tangential point that must be made, America's first rock-star president since John F. Kennedy, who has commented on everything from the foolishness of hip-hop artist Kanye West (remember Taylor Swift's pain) to golfer Tiger Woods' serial adultery, must stay the serious course. Now that Obama has garnered monumental momentum, he should refrain from his side role as pop culture commentator in chief. In other words, don't digress into trivial pursuits as a celebrity president.

We all know that Obama was a high school basketball player, and he plays recreationally even as president. To use a sports analogy, the ball is in his court; his future is in his own virtual grasp (and perhaps coated with oil). So will Obama shoot a game-changing three-pointer in the clutch or commit a costly turnover between now and the first Tuesday of November 2012?

So, here's to you, Mr. President.

Gregory Clay is assistant sports editor for McClatchy-Tribune News Service, 700 12th Street NW, Suite 1000, Washington, D.C. 20005; email: gclay@mctinfoservices.com.

To restore jobs, US has to ramp up exports

By DIMITRI B. PAPADIMITRIOU

Los Angeles Times

Dimitri B. Papadimitriou is president of the Levy Economics Institute of Bard College and a professor of economics there. He is a former vice chairman of Congress' Trade Deficit Review Commission. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.



jobs behind the curve if employment is to return to its pre-recession levels. Among the world's most developed nations, the G-7, we have the highest unemployment. Here at the Levy Economics Institute, even in our best-case growth scenario, we see unemployment dropping only to about 7 percent—way above healthy levels—by 2015. We're not alone in that pessimism: The figures vary, but the prevailing outlook, including from the Federal Reserve, is that job-seekers face years of pain.

Exports are key to meeting the urgent need for new jobs. The White House estimates that every \$1 billion in exports creates 5,000 jobs. This makes it crucial for companies to find more customers in the rest of the world.

In addition to aircraft and other transport vehicles, U.S. industrial equipment, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, semiconductors and agricultural products—raw and processed—have a track record of success in the global marketplace, along with millions of goods from medium-size and small companies.

There are things that could be done to help American exporters. A devaluation of the dollar beyond the current downward creep would be a start. A weaker dollar would reduce the cost of our exports in foreign markets, in turn generating demand from buyers abroad. It would also encourage American consumers to buy domestic products because our goods would have a price advantage over imported ones. And the resulting rise in exports would have a side benefit: reducing the national budget deficit, because GDP growth and lower unemployment would mean larger government revenues and less spending on safety-net programs.

Devaluation does have some downsides, of course. Over the long haul, it can cause inflation, but that is not an immediate danger because core inflation is currently at or near record lows. Still, consumers would probably be paying more in the short term for oil and other imports.

In the long term, international monetary reforms would certainly be a preferable route to devaluing the dollar. Global imbalances are on the G-20 radar screen, but a serious policy response has yet to be floated. One helpful monetary reform would be to expand Special Drawing Rights—artificial, blended currency units governed by the International Monetary Fund—as supplemental currency reserves. This could only be done by an accord among the G-20 countries. International agreements take time—the World Trade Organization's Doha talks will soon celebrate their 10th anniversary—so moving the dollar's exchange rate is a better short-term solution.

Even then, ramping up American exports will be difficult. The White House has set a goal of doubling exports over five years, but the current mania for spending cuts may work against that ambition. In the House of Representatives, the Small Business Committee has advocated rescinding \$30 million in Small Business Administration grants to states for promoting exports and sharply cutting the SBA's Office of International Trade. These savings would be counter-productive and would work against the nation's best interests.

It's true that our trade account balance has recently improved. The better figures, though, aren't a sign of healthy growth or an upcoming job surge. They reflect more a drop in imports rather than a growth in exports, and the drop has come because of less demand for goods in the recession's shadow and amid ongoing financial fears.

Exports are starting to rise. But making sure that the upward curve continues will be crucial to addressing our still-worrisome unemployment rate.

Reject the school-to-prison pipeline

By ANNETTE FUENTES

MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE INFORMATION SERVICES

It's almost cap-and-gown time for seniors at high schools around the country, but too many teenagers have dropped out of school and are at risk of entering the criminal justice system.

This is one of the greatest failures of our educational system. About 10 percent of all males in prison are high school dropouts.

The zero-tolerance policy of school disciplinary codes has contributed greatly to this problem. It has created an epidemic of suspensions for behaviors that are often minor transgressions.

Not too long ago, student disruptions—talking in class, shoving in the hallways, being tardy—would receive a slap on the wrist. Now, at the discretion of teachers and principals, such behavior leads to in-school and out-of-school suspensions, which can last a few days or longer.

In California alone, there were more than 700,000 out-of-school

suspensions in the last school year. And Texas had more than half a million.

Each time a student is excluded from the classroom, it puts his or her education in suspension, too, and it increases the likelihood that the student will drop out.

Education researchers have found that suspensions early in a child's academic career, even as young as elementary school, are a predictor of dropping out by the 10th grade.

Suspensions lead to the school-to-prison pipeline. The harsh discipline of zero-tolerance policies puts the most vulnerable kids, disproportionately black and Latino students, at greatest risk of dropping out of school. And from there, excluded from education and with limited prospects, they are at greater risk of falling into jail.

Zero-tolerance discipline and the suspension epidemic are like a public health threat, so it's no wonder that the American Psychological Association came out strongly against these harsh practices in public schools several years ago. The group called for a new ap-

proach to creating safe schools in a healthy learning environment.

A national coalition of educators, legal and civil rights advocates is doing just that. They've come together to form the Dignity in Schools Campaign, which is calling on Congress to replace a zero-tolerance approach to safety and discipline with something completely different: positive behavioral supports. In this model, adopted by Los Angeles schools, students' good behaviors are rewarded and their bad behaviors are viewed as an opportunity for learning and remediation.

The harsh model of discipline that prevails in too many U.S. schools needs to be replaced with a model that is more befitting their core mission: to educate our young and teach them with compassion and understanding.






Once that happens, we'll have many more of our high school students reaching out for their diplomas, instead of going to jail.

Annette Fuentes is the author of Lockdown High: When the Schoolhouse Becomes a Jailhouse; she wrote this for Progressive Media Project, a source of liberal commentary on domestic and international issues; it is affiliated with The Progressive magazine.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				
Mostly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲89 ▼79
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲85 ▼78
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲88 ▼76
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲82 ▼77
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲88 ▼77
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲90 ▼79
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲83 ▼77

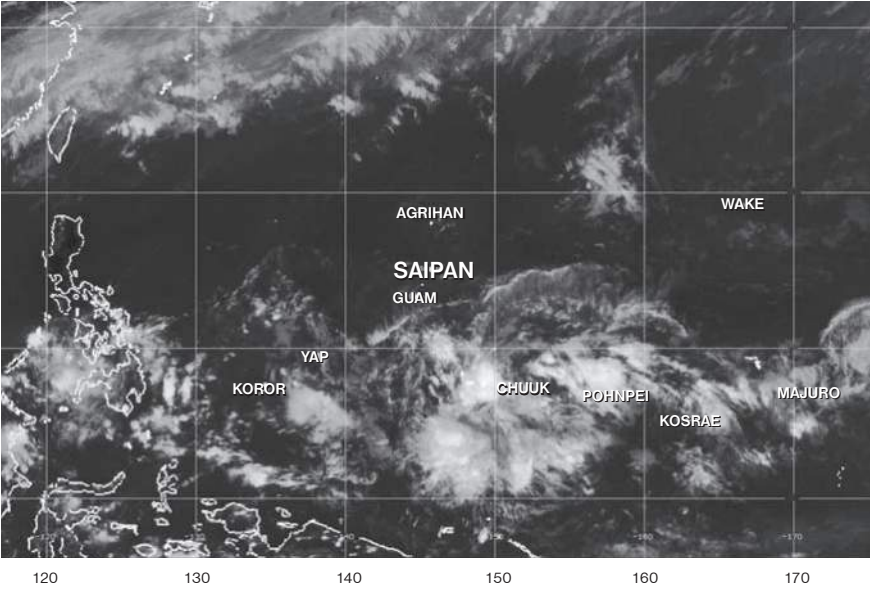
Around The Globe

Auckland	Windy	▲65 ▼56
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	▲82 ▼65
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲80 ▼76
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲85 ▼74
London	Partly Cloudy	▲69 ▼54
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲64 ▼54
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲94 ▼84
Melbourne	Sunny	▲64 ▼48
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲86 ▼71
New York	Showers	▲69 ▼59
Osaka	Showers	▲73 ▼57
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲73 ▼48
Pusan	Sunny	▲68 ▼58
Rome	Sunny	▲75 ▼54
Salem	Showers	▲59 ▼40
San Francisco	Showers	▲55 ▼50
Seoul	Sunny	▲71 ▼54
Tokyo	Showers	▲66 ▼59
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲74 ▼58

Tides

Saipan Harbor			
1:07 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet
6:21 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet
1:39 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet
8:34 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, MAY 16, 2011
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A near-equatorial trough extends southeastward from 7N130E through a circulation centered southeast of Koror at 6N137E then continues eastward to another circulation centered southwest of Chuuk at 5N149E turning southeastward to end at EQ152E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found just southeast of Koror within 90 miles of a line from 7N136E to 4N141E across Chuuk and Pohnpei within an area bounded by a line from 11N146E to 10N161E to 9N160E to 1N146E back to 10N146E. An upper-level trough extending northward from 18N156E to beyond 25N at 154E is triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms well northeast of Saipan between 18N and 22N from 155E to 158E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers across Kwajalein and near Majuro between 7N and 10N from 163E to 175E and within 60 miles of a line from 2N167E to 6N171E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:48 AM	6:39 PM
Wednesday	5:48 AM	6:39 PM
Thursday	5:48 AM	6:40 PM
Friday	5:47 AM	6:40 PM
Saturday	5:47 AM	6:40 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	6:30 PM	5:09 AM
Wednesday	7:33 PM	6:06 AM
Thursday	8:33 PM	7:06 AM
Friday	9:29 PM	8:06 AM
Saturday	10:19 PM	9:04 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

- PICTURES**
 - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
 - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
 - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
 - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
 - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
 - COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

- For pictures:**
 - Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.
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 - Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 10, 2011

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM				GUAM-SAIPAN			
C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily	C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6	C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7	C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	5K389	1:35pm	2:25pm	1, 4, 6
5K382	6:00pm	6:50pm	2, 5, 7	C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily	C09604	5:10pm	6:00pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily	C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:00am	8:45am	Daily	DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily	DL288	8:05pm	12:35am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5	OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1	OZ603	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ604	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7	OZ605	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
MU590	4:30am	7:20am	2, 6	MU589	8:50pm	3:30am+1	1, 5
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 5	3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	4, 7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 4	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN	OZ704/603	12:10am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	DL172/288	7:45am	12:35am+1	Daily via NRT
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM	C0890/9606	10:55am	8:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:00am	10:15pm	Daily via NRT	OZ702/605	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
C09313/933	7:55am	8:40pm	3, 6 via GUM	OZ702/605	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C09603/933	3:05pm	8:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7 via GUM	C0892/9596	9:55pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
C09603/893	3:05pm	10:10pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau	PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:25am+1	6 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 ICN	PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 4, 7 via GUM
OZ604/715	3:20pm	11:30pm	7	C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 4, 7 via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:25am+1	3, 6 via GUM
				C0934/9596	11:25pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG				HONG KONG-SAIPAN			
OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05pm	9:25pm	1, 5 via GUM	5K169	9:55am	5:00pm	2, 5, 7
5K168	3:25pm	6:35pm	1, 4, 6	OZ722/605	1:25pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ604/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/605	1:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
				C0910/9596	10:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM
Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; CZ: 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The <i>Saipan Tribune</i> is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)							

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
FRE 100	17:50	18:20	Daily				
Saipan-Rota				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 100	10:20	10:45	Daily	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily				



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Business

IMF chief's arrest won't stop Greek bailout debate

BERLIN (AP)—The arrest of IMF chief Dominique Strauss-Kahn complicates a key European meeting on whether to give Greece billions more in aid—but experts insisted one man's troubles won't keep the 17 eurozone nations from trying to contain a debt crisis that threatens them all.

Eurozone financial leaders are to discuss Greece's deteriorating economy Monday at a Brussels meeting where experts will brief them on the situation in Athens. Key questions include what conditions to put on more help to the debt-strapped nation, with European leaders unhappy at what they see as limited Greek efforts to raise money by selling government property.

Strauss-Kahn was arrested Sunday in New York on suspicion of sexual assault on a hotel maid.

Despite the arrest, the International Monetary Fund said in a statement it remains "fully functioning and operational." The IMF Executive Board convened an informal session Sunday and made Strauss-Kahn's deputy, John Lipsky, acting managing director while its chief was unavailable.

The Washington, D.C.-based lending body also sent Nemat Shafik, a deputy managing director who oversees IMF work in several EU countries, to Monday's eurozone meeting to replace Strauss-Kahn.

Strauss-Kahn had to cancel his Sunday meeting with Chancellor Angela Merkel in Berlin, where the German public is deeply skeptical about putting up any more money for Greece. Germany, as Europe's large-



Dominique Strauss-Kahn, head of the International Monetary Fund, is lead from a police station Sunday, May 15, 2011 in New York where he was being held.

est economy, provided a large chunk of the euro110 billion (\$157 billion) bailout for Greece from the European Union and the IMF last year.

Strauss-Kahn was scheduled to be arraigned Monday.

Greek government spokesman Giorgos Petalotis insisted the arrest would not affect his nation's efforts to resolve its financial woes.

"The Greek government deals with institutions, not individuals, and continues unimpeded to implement the program that will get it out of the crisis," Petalotis said.

German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schaeuble struck a similar tone, saying the eurozone meeting would go ahead as planned. And European politicians had already gotten used to the idea that Strauss-Kahn may leave his post soon to run for president of France

next year.

Yet others said Strauss-Kahn's immediate departure from the financial stage adds additional uncertainty to the already difficult situation in Europe.

"The leadership vacuum at the IMF comes at a highly inopportune time for Europe, which is teetering on the brink of a full-blown debt crisis," said Eswar Prasad, a professor of international economics at Cornell University and a former IMF official.

Many investors believe that Greece's financial troubles are so overwhelming that a Greek default or a restructuring that would give creditors less than the full value of their bonds is inevitable. But that would be a serious blow to the euro, and eurozone governments and the European Central Bank appear determined to prevent it.

that if the experts' full report in June shows that Greece can't pay its debts, something more will have to be done.

The IMF put up euro30 billion (\$43 billion) of that Greek loan and also supplies expertise in assessing whether Greece and other countries that get emergency loans are living up to the conditions attached to them.

A euro78 billion (\$111 billion) bailout for Portugal was also on the agenda for Monday's meeting in Brussels, as is Ireland's progress in dealing with the financial morass that led to its own EU-IMF bailout. With the terms of the Portuguese bailout largely decided, EU finance ministers are expected to signal approval of that deal.

Although eurozone ministers were talking about Greece, a new bailout announcement was not planned for Monday. Instead, investors expected a general statement of support, followed by days or weeks of

more haggling.

Marco Valli, chief eurozone economist at UniCredit, said Greece's troubles were separate from those of Strauss-Kahn, and he expected a decision on more help for Greece in the near future.

"There is no way that just because the IMF's chief gets into personal trouble that Greece would be left alone," Valli said. "Maybe it can have some impact on timing, but our view is that this is not going to have a meaningful impact on the bottom line, which is that Greece would get a second bailout package."

Other analysts agreed that the IMF will simply navigate through the upcoming difficulties.

"The IMF is not a one-trick pony," David Buik at BGC Partners in London. "European markets may be damaged by this news for a few hours but there is plenty of depth to the IMF."

Galaxy Macau casino opens to lucrative market

MACAU (AP)—The Galaxy Macau, a multibillion-dollar casino resort complex, opened Sunday as Macau aims to draw a broader mix of visitors than the high-rolling mainland Chinese who have helped the city become the world's most lucrative gambling market.

To the crackle of firecrackers and the beat of a traditional Chinese lion dance, officials christened the Galaxy Entertainment Group's newest casino as a line of customers waiting to enter snaked around the building.

The casino, with 450 gambling tables and space for up to 1,500 slot machines, is the only one scheduled to open in the southern Chinese city this year.

The \$1.9 billion complex also boasts a 40,000-square foot (4,000-square meter) wave pool

and an artificial beach built with 350 tons of white sand. Guests can stay at three hotels, including one run by Singapore's Banyan Tree and another by Japan's Okura, with a total of 2,200 rooms.

Tropical and Japanese gardens, a Japanese tea pavilion, a Scottish-themed whiskey bar, 50 restaurants, a private members' club and a shopping street are other draws. A nine-screen 3-D movie theater is to open later this year.

The launch of Macau's 34th casino comes as the city seeks to diversify its economy away from gambling after years of searing growth that helped it overtake Las Vegas as the world's top casino market.

Macau's casino profits have been boosted by high-spend-

ing gamblers visiting from the Chinese mainland, many of whom travel on short junkets run by companies that lend them money to gamble and then collect debts once they return. The former Portuguese colony, once considered seedy and corrupt, now aims to develop cultural and entertainment attractions that can draw more middle-class families who will stay longer.

Macau's economy has boomed since a four-decade casino monopoly was broken up in 2002, opening the way for U.S. and Australian operators to enter the market with local partners. Monthly casino revenues so far in 2011 have grown by at least 33 percent, after surging by more than half last year to \$23.5 billion.

Sony begins partial PlayStation Network operation

TOKYO (AP)—Sony began restoring its PlayStation Network service in the United States and Europe on Sunday after shutting down the service almost a month ago due to a massive security breach affecting over 100 million online accounts.

Restored operations are mainly limited to online gaming, chat and music streaming services. Sony said it aimed to fully restore the PlayStation Network by the end of May.

Sony also began Sunday a phased restoration of its Qriocity movie and music services which share the PlayStation Network's server, said Sony Computer Entertainment Inc. spokesman Satoshi Fukuoka.

Limited services will also resume in Australia, Canada,

New Zealand and the Middle East, and Sony said it will start restoring the service for users in Asia soon.

Sony's PlayStation network is a system that links gamers worldwide in live play. Sony shut it down on April 20 after discovering a hacker attack and said personal data, including credit card numbers, may have been stolen. But the company said Sunday it had not received any reports of the stolen information being used illegally.

Kazuo Hirai, chief of Sony Corp.'s PlayStation video game unit, said in a statement that the company has beefed up security measures to protect customers' personal data. He offered "sincere regret" for any inconvenience caused by the network intrusion.

While the partial service allows users to enjoy video games and online chat, Sony said consumers still cannot buy video games or other content by using credit cards.

"While we understand the importance of getting our services back online, we did not rush to do so at the expense of extensively and aggressively testing our enhanced security measures," Hirai said.

Among the 100 million user accounts, Sony said about 92 million can access the limited PlayStation network service.

The network serves both the PlayStation video game machines and Sony's Qriocity movie and music services. It is a system that also allows users to upgrade and download games and other content.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Oil falls to below \$99 as US dollar rallies

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices fell below \$99 a barrel Monday in Asia as crude became more expensive for investors with other currencies amid a U.S. dollar rally. Benchmark crude for June delivery was down 84 cents to \$98.81 a barrel at midday Singapore time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract settled at \$99.65 per barrel Friday, up 68 cents. In London, Brent crude for June delivery was down 44 cents to \$113.39 a barrel on the ICE Futures exchange. Oil has retreated from a 30-month high near \$115 at the beginning of the month as the dollar has strengthened.

US businesses reluctant to open in Mexico

MCALLEN, Texas (AP)—Dozens of Mattel Inc. employees were on their way to another day of work making Power Wheels in Mexico's industrial heartland when gunshots erupted around them and a grenade ripped into one of their buses, killing one worker and wounding five. The battle between drug traffickers and the army near the city of Monterrey last week was the sort of violence that is frightening U.S. companies away from new investments south

of the border, where organized criminals are increasingly turning to kidnappings, extortion and cargo thefts despite a government offensive against drug cartels. "These acts of violence are not happening in a vacuum; they're happening in the street that could be right out in front of your building. Bullets get shot and they have to stop somewhere," said Dan Burges, a senior director at Freightwatch Inc., an Austin-based cargo security firm.

Weak economic signals steer Asia down

BANGKOK (AP)—A loss of momentum on Wall Street and worries over Europe's debt problems dampened investor enthusiasm and led Asian stock markets lower Monday. Oil prices fell below \$99 a barrel Monday in Asia as crude became more expensive for investors with other currencies amid a U.S. dollar rally. Japan's Nikkei 225 index dropped 0.6 percent to 9,587.85 with banking shares incurring losses following comments last week by Chief Cabinet Secretary Yukio Edano suggesting that Tokyo Electric Power Co. will need help repaying its debts. Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group Inc. lost 1 percent. Mizuho Financial Group lost 0.8 percent.

Nation

As water creeps closer, residents warned: Get out

KROTZ SPRINGS, La. (AP)—Deputies warned people Sunday to get out as Mississippi River water gushing from a floodgate for the first time in four decades crept ever closer to communities in Louisiana Cajun country, slowly filling a river basin like a giant bathtub. Most residents heeded the

warnings and headed for higher ground, even in places where there hasn't been so much as a trickle, hopeful that the flooding engineered to protect New Orleans and Baton Rouge would be merciful to their way of life.

Days ago, many of the towns known for their Cajun culture and drawling dialect fluttered

with activity as people filled sandbags and cleared out belongings. By Sunday, some areas were virtually empty as the water from the Mississippi River, swollen by snowmelt and heavy rains, slowly rolled across the Atchafalaya River basin. It first started to come, in small amounts, into people's

yards in Melville on Sunday. But it still had yet to move farther downstream.

The floodwaters could reach depths of 20 feet in the coming weeks, though levels were nowhere close to that yet.

The spillway's opening diverted water from heavily populated New Orleans and Baton Rouge - along with chemical plants and oil refineries along the Mississippi's lower reaches - easing pressure on the levees there in the hope of avoiding potentially catastrophic floods.

About 11 miles north of Krotz Springs in the town of Melville, water was already starting to creep into some people's backyards. Parts of the town not protected by levees were under a mandatory evacuation order. Glenda Maddox's husband had

temporarily reopened the gas station he closed in December so people could fuel up before they leave.

"Nobody knows what's going to happen," she said. "We don't know if the levee is going to hold up."

The station's shelves were mostly barren, save for a few soft drinks and bottles of motor oil. Only cash was accepted—no credit cards.

In Butte LaRose, some 50 miles downstream from where the Morganza spillway was opened, no water was expected until at least later Sunday.

Chalmers Wheat, 54, was among the few left—and even he was headed for his father's home in Baton Rouge outside the flood zone. He and his brother were making a few fi-

nal preparations to protect his home with plastic lining and sandbags.

"It's almost like a ghost town," said Wheat, who was getting some help from his twin brother, Chandler.

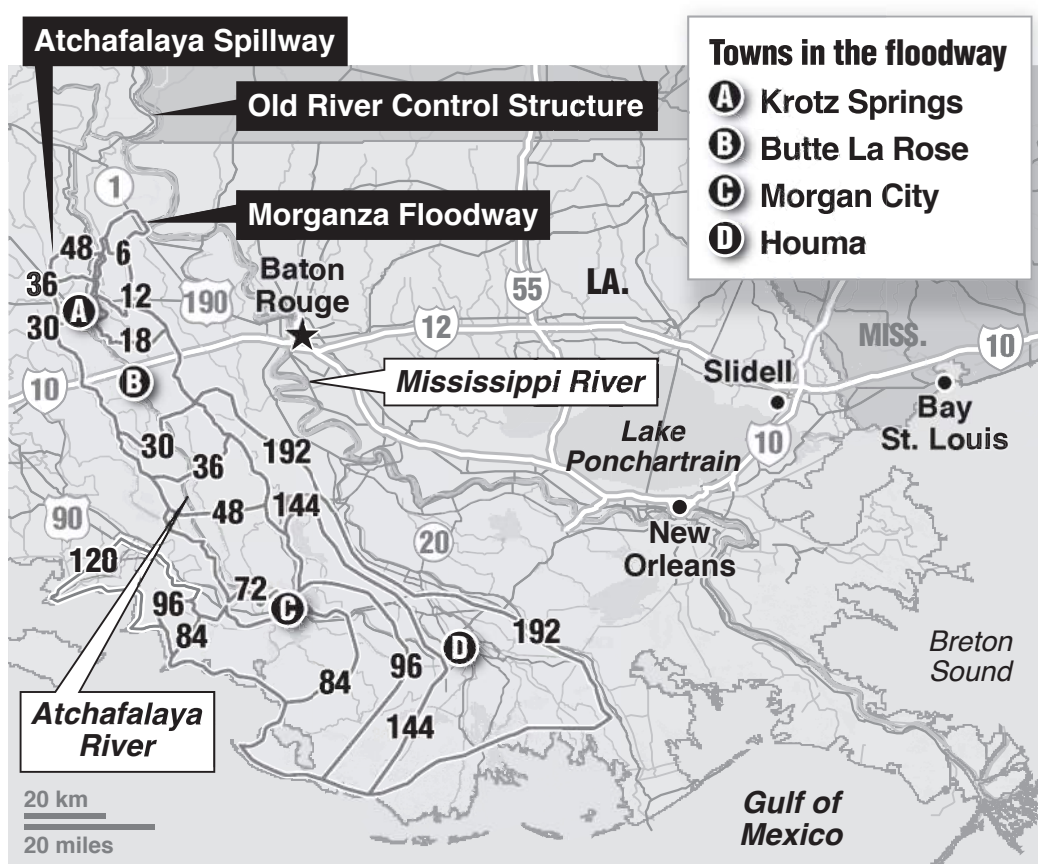
Sandbags were still available in the center of town, but there were few takers Sunday.

Krotz Springs is roughly 30 miles closer to the floodgates, and deputies ordered people to evacuate Sunday morning even though the water hadn't yet arrived.

Wayne Duplechain, who lives in the parish about eight miles outside Krotz Springs, said he would have his family stay in a camper parked on his son's property outside the flood zone. He hoped to return, though, and ride out the flooding.

Time a factor in planned flood

With the opening of the gates at the north end of the Morganza Floodway, it will hours or days for the resulting floodwaters to reach points south and west. Numbers refer to hours it will take water to move to those points assuming a flow of 125,000 cubic ft. per second through the gates.



After tornadoes, junk donations become challenge

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. (AP)—Relief officials inundated with donations after the flurry of twisters that killed more than 300 people across the South are sorting through the broken toys and used underwear they don't need while hunting for places to store mountains of vital supplies like canned food.

Across Alabama, agencies are still encouraging people to send items like cleaning supplies for people clearing debris from tornado-damaged homes, or cash donations that can be used to cover operating expenses or handed out to victims. But with storage space scarce, most say they can't handle any more used toys or cast-off clothing.

"That becomes the disaster within the disaster," said Salvation Army spokesman Mark Jones. "When people make those mass donations ... it causes the community to be overrun with them and have to deal with that in addition to the storm damage."

In a dimly lit warehouse in Tuscaloosa, for instance, donated toys are piled 6 feet high as volunteers sort through hundreds of bags of old clothes. A 3-foot-tall plastic Santa Claus looks over the operation; volunteers say it came in with a load of contributions.

At a donation distribution center in the northwest Alabama town of Phil Campbell, volunteer manager Beth Rhea has baby food stacked almost to the ceiling, plenty of water and doesn't need any more clothes. But she could use some tents and camping gear because some victims are sleeping outside beside the rubble of their homes. In the central Alabama town of Eclectic, Mayor Helen Rowe has put out the word: No more clothing donations.

As for the Salvation Army, Jones said the agency only recently found warehouse space in hard-hit Tuscaloosa and still desperately needs new underwear, nonperishable foods,

pet food and sports drinks. It's still searching for more storage space for things that won't be used right away.

Dozens of tornadoes whipped across the South on April 27, killing people across seven states and injuring hundreds more as entire communities were leveled. Donated water and food started arriving within hours in some towns; relief sites sprang up on street corners and in parking lots.

Temporary Emergency Services of Tuscaloosa County already has 10 warehouses full of donations, but too many of those items are broken toys, dirty stuffed animals and used underwear that has to be thrown in the trash, said agency director Karen Thompson. While the warehouse space was also donated, Thompson said storing all that stuff is still costly because the organization must pay liability insurance to cover the operation in case someone is hurt on the job.

Endeavour fueled for launch; Giffords on hand

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)—With wounded Rep. Gabrielle Giffords on hand to watch, the space shuttle Endeavour is poised to give the work week a roaring and historic start Monday, overcoming wiring problems that grounded it last month.

NASA began fueling Endeavour late Sunday night for the second-to-last shuttle flight.

Giffords' arrival in the afternoon included a quick fly-by of Endeavour on the launch pad, then she bid husband Mark Kelly goodbye at the bucolic beach house used by shuttle crews before launch.

"Gabrielle is excited for tomorrow's launch. Do you plan to see history in the making?" her staff tweeted. Later, her staff added: "Gabrielle & Mark said goodbye during visit before launch. Beach House made for picturesque setting."

NASA officials said conditions—from weather to technical issues—couldn't look much better for the scheduled 8:56

a.m. launch Monday.

Giffords, traveling on a NASA jet with the family of pilot Gregory Johnson, arrived shortly after the protective structure that surrounds Endeavour was moved out of the way—a milestone in launch preparations that allows fueling to begin late Sunday night.

NASA was so ready to get the flight off the ground that they moved the protective scaffolding 15 minutes earlier than planned.

There was only a 30 percent chance of a weather delay, mostly because of crosswinds.

The conditions were far different from last month's futile launch attempt. The protective cover wasn't removed for five hours because of storms, and the launch was scrubbed because of an electrical problem.

Because of the early morning launch, Endeavour's crew will be working odd hours, going to bed when most people are ready to eat dinner. Just before 5 p.m. Sunday, Endeavour astronaut Mike Fincke tweeted that he was

going to sleep and then promised an early morning update to his more than 10,000 Twitter followers: "I plan to tweet until they take my phone away!"

Endeavour's pilot, Johnson, then tweeted that he couldn't sleep: "I'm a little too excited to hit the rack just yet."

NASA is expecting slightly smaller crowds—400,000 people instead of 750,000 people—for the second attempt. The media horde is also slightly thinned—even though the April attempt was on the same day as the royal wedding—but includes television anchors such as Katie Couric of CBS, said NASA spokesman Bob Jacobs.

With the story of Giffords' remarkable recovery from the January shooting having been the focus of media attention in April, now more people are paying attention to the other parts of Endeavour's planned 16-day mission. The shuttle's main goal is to haul a \$2 billion astronomy and physics experiment to the international space station.

ACROSS THE NATION

Emergency landing of American Airlines jet in Ark.

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP)—A report of an engine fire forced an American Airlines flight to make an emergency landing Sunday, though no fire was found when the plane safely landed in Arkansas, authorities said. Little Rock National Airport officials said Flight 1720 landed at 4:08 p.m., about 15 minutes after the pilot declared an emergency. The twin-engine MD 80 jet was traveling from Dallas to Washington. The plane was carrying 136 passengers and five crew members. No injuries were reported, Federal Aviation Administration spokeswoman Elizabeth Isham Corey said.

Miami imam, 2 sons charged with supporting Taliban

MIAMI (AP)—An elderly Miami imam and two of his sons have been arrested on federal charges they provided some \$50,000 to the Pakistani Taliban, while three others in Pakistan have been indicted on charges of handling dis-

tribution of the funds, authorities say. Hafiz Muhammed Sher Ali Khan, 76, was arrested Saturday at the Miami Mosque, also known as the Flagler Mosque. One of his sons, Izhar Khan, 24, another imam at the Jamaat Al-Mu'mineen Mosque in nearby Margate, Fla., was arrested there. Another son, Irfan Khan, 37, was detained in Los Angeles. The three are U.S. citizens. Their mosques are not suspected of wrongdoing, authorities said.

Mobile home fire kills 4 in Texas

CONROE, Texas (AP)—A mobile home fire has left three children and a woman dead in Texas. Firefighters who arrived at the burning home early Sunday in Conroe found two of the children in a bedroom, but were unable to revive them. The bodies of the woman and the third child were found during a later search. Police identified the victims as 24-year-old Celia Camacho, 3-year-old Alejandro Camacho, 6-year-old Sergio Camacho and 9-year-old Eric Pineda.

Asia

Wary of security, Navy won't talk about bin Laden

ABOARD THE USS CARL VINSON (AP)—American servicemen aboard the USS *Carl Vinson* aircraft carrier, which buried Osama bin Laden's body at sea, basked in their history-making mission Sunday but refused to discuss the attack that killed him, reflecting concerns over possible retaliation.

U.S. defense officials are taking measures to ensure the security of the operatives involved in the May 2 assault on a walled compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan, particularly the Navy SEAL team that killed the world's most-wanted terrorist.

The massive aircraft carrier dropped anchor under heavy guard at Manila Bay on Sunday at the start of a four-day routine port and goodwill visit. It's the first break for Carl Vinson's 5,500 sailors, pilots and crew after months of war in Iraq and Afghanistan that was capped by their support to the commando strike that killed bin Laden.

All those aboard the warship were ordered not to discuss operational details as they come into contact with the public for the first time since the covert strike, officials said.

Philippine President Benigno Aquino III, accompanied by senior members of his Cabinet and military chief of staff, were flown to the *Carl Vinson* on Saturday as it traveled in the South China Sea toward the Philippines, a key Asian anti-terrorism ally. Then a group of journalists were invited the next day.

Discussions about the slain al-Qaida leader were taboo in both visits. American servicemen did not show any overt sign of celebration over their triumph.

Asked how he felt being a part of the history-making mission in Pakistan, Rear Admiral Samuel Perez, who headed the carrier strike force that included



In this photo released by the Malacanang Palace in Manila, Philippine President Benigno Aquino III, right, talks with Philippine Defense Chief Voltaire Gazmin, as they observe activities aboard the U.S. aircraft carrier USS *Carl Vinson* sailing in international waters approaching the Philippines, during his unannounced visit Saturday May 14, 2011.

the nuclear-powered Carl Vinson, refused to be drawn in.

"You know I'm not going to comment on that," Perez told journalists aboard the 97,000-ton carrier, but added that "everyday that you're a sailor in the U.S. Navy, you're a part of history."

Filipino-American Navy Corpsman Liberty Raposas said morale was "very high" among her colleagues.

Perez said hundreds of servicemen and women who trace their roots to the Philippines welcomed Aquino, who was given a tour of the ship and an exhibition of fighter jets landing and taking off.

Aquino, at one point, sat in the cockpit of an F/A-18E Super Hornet fighter jet in a hangar bay as sailors snapped pictures.

But the one thing on everybody's mind—bin Laden's burial from the Carl Vinson just 12 days earlier—was not raised by

either side, Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin said.

"We did not ask for a briefing because it was too sensitive," Gazmin told The Associated Press on Sunday. "It was a friendly visit and we let it stay that way."

In impromptu remarks on the ship, Aquino reaffirmed the "historic, defense and cultural ties" between the United States and the Philippines, his spokesman, Ricky Carandang, said.

U.S. forces have been training and arming Filipino soldiers battling al-Qaida-linked militants in the south.

The *Carl Vinson* came from the North Arabian Sea, where it had received the SEAL team that carried bin Laden's body after his death in his compound near a Pakistani military academy.

Pentagon officials have said that on the carrier, bin Laden's body was placed in a "weighted

bag," an officer made religious remarks and the remains were put on a flat board and tipped into the sea.

Defense Secretary Robert Gates has said that during a recent meeting with SEAL members who attacked bin Laden, they expressed concerns about their families' security.

American officials agreed shortly after bin Laden was killed not to release any details on the commando assault, Gates said, but added "that fell apart—the next day."

"We are looking at what measures can be taken to pump up the security," Gates said.

Detained Chinese artist allowed visit by wife

BEIJING (AP)—Ground-breaking Chinese artist Ai Weiwei has been allowed his first family visit after more than a month in detention, his sister said Monday, in a case that the U.S. and other governments have criticized as a sign of China's deteriorating human rights.

Beijing police took Ai's wife, Lu Qing, to an undisclosed location Sunday night where she was able to see and talk briefly with her husband who seemed healthy, said the artist's sister Gao Ge.

Ai, one of China's best-known contemporary artists, was taken away April 3 as he prepared to board a flight to Hong Kong from Beijing's Capital International Airport.

The Foreign Ministry has said he is being investigated for suspected economic crimes, but his detention comes amid a crackdown on dissent apparently sparked by fears that anti-government demonstrations such as those in the Arab world could erupt in China. Ai had been keeping an informal

Bin Laden was logged off, but not al-Qaida

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Osama bin Laden cut himself off from direct access to the Internet during his final years in Pakistan as he attempted to elude the CIA. But the terror group he founded has been able to seize the power of the Web to spawn an army of online followers who will prolong al-Qaida's war against the West long after his demise.

Al-Qaida's technological evolution illustrates how much the group has changed since the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks and why it has flourished despite America's decade-long quest to crush it, using everything from drone strikes in Pakistan to secret prisons in Eastern Europe where bin Laden's lieutenants were interrogated.

The U.S. scored its biggest victory in that war on May 2, when U.S. Navy SEALs shot and killed the 54-year-old terror leader during a daring late-night helicopter raid not far from Pakistan's capital.

His death was undoubtedly a blow to al-Qaida, but the group's diffuse, virtual network lives on in militant chatrooms and on social media sites like Facebook and YouTube, where supporters carry forward bin Laden's message and plan the kind of bloody attacks that were his hallmark.

"While bin Laden's death has certainly been lamented within the jihadist community, al-Qaida's copious media over the past 10 years have ensured that bin Laden's videos, speeches, and ideas will continue to incite jihadists all over the world," said Rita Katz, head of the U.S.-based SITE Intelligence Group that monitors Islamic militant messages online.

Unlike its Afghan Taliban allies, who banned television when they were in power, al-Qaida has never rejected modern technology and recognized the importance of an online presence before Sept. 11. But its early efforts were fairly rudimentary. Since then, the group and its affiliates have exploited the Internet to rally and connect supporters, and are very quick to adopt new technology.

Al-Qaida's media production arm, As-Sahab, now produces videos that look like professionally edited documentaries or television news broadcasts that are distributed by Al-Fajr, the group's online media organization, to major militant websites. The videos, which often contain flashy computer graphics, are then uploaded to scores of other sites by al-Qaida supporters.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Strong earthquake strikes off Papua New Guinea

SYDNEY (AP)—A strong earthquake struck off the coast of Papua New Guinea on Monday, but there were no immediate reports of injuries or damage. The magnitude-6.5 quake struck 76 miles (122 kilometers) west of Arawa, the capital of Bougainville province, at a depth of 27 miles (43 kilometers), the U.S. Geological Survey said. The Pacific Tsunami Warning Center said there was no threat of a destructive, widespread tsunami and that sea-level gauges in the region showed no unusual wave activity. But the agency did say earthquakes of this size can sometimes generate tsunamis along coasts within 60 miles (100 kilometers) of the epicenter.

6 more New Zealand quake victims declared dead

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—A New Zealand coroner has officially declared as dead six people who are believed to have been

killed in February's earthquake in Christchurch even though their bodies have not been identified. The finding Monday by chief coroner Neil MacLean finally gives names to all of the 181 people listed as killed in the quake that struck the southern city on Feb. 22. Police earlier identified 172 of the quake's 181 victims, but said the remains of nine other people were too incomplete for them to be identified forensically.

Seoul forces Fendi to remove fur from catwalk

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Seoul is forcing Italian fashion house Fendi to leave fur off the catwalk of its largest show in Asia due to protests. Fendi's statement Sunday said the designer had difficulty understanding the decision and had spent months preparing. It added it would continue negotiations. Animal rights activists in Seoul had threatened massive rallies unless fur was removed. City official Seo Jeong-hyup said Monday that Seoul subsequently demanded it because of negative public sentiments.

World

Libya: NATO hits oil port of Ras Lanouf

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP)—NATO aircraft blasted an oil terminal in a key eastern city at nightfall Sunday, Libyan TV reported, after Britain urged the alliance to widen its assault on areas controlled by ruler Moammar Gadhafi.

Libya's deputy foreign minister Khaled Kaim sharply condemned that call, describing it as a "provocation."

The Libya TV report said the bombs hit methanol tanks at the oil port of Ras Lanouf, causing

leaks. NATO officials had no immediate comment.

The reported attack came as the Libyan conflict appeared largely stalemated, with each side claiming gains one day, only to be turned back the next.

Libyan rebels said Sunday they have taken full control of the western port city of Misrata, 125 miles (200 kilometers) from Tripoli, the only major city in western Libya with a significant rebel toehold. The rebel claim could not be confirmed.

In Misrata, rebel fighter Abdel-Salam described the situation in Misrata as static.

"The situation is almost frozen, as the rebels are in full control over Misrata," he said. "The rebels are not engaged in any major fighting fronts with Gadhafi forces."

The two sides have been battling intensely over Misrata, symbolic because of its location near Gadhafi's capital. His forces shelled the city heavily and at some points took up po-

sitions inside Misrata neighborhoods to fire at civilians and fighters, while avoiding NATO airstrikes. Rebels and residents say Gadhafi forces remain at the edges of the town.

More than 1,000 people have died in Misrata in the fighting and shelling.

The rebel fighter denied earlier reports suggesting that rebels were advancing toward the western city of Zlitan, which would be the next step on the road to Tripoli.

"The rebels agreed that it is better not to move forward or open new fronts," he said.

He added, "It will be a big risk to advance. Anything could happen and cost us heavy casualties. This is not the right de-

cision to take right now."

The head of Britain's armed forces, Gen. David Richards, appeared to relate to the stalemate and frustration in the West over the slow pace of warfare in Libya, with Gadhafi still in power, able to taunt NATO for failing to unseat him.

In remarks published in The Sunday Telegraph in London, Richards urged NATO to widen the range of targets the alliance's planes are allowed to hit in the effort to stymie the Gadhafi's regime's attacks on protesters. Richards declared that "more intense military action" was needed or the conflict could end in stalemate.

Kaim, the deputy foreign minister, said Richards' call

was emblematic of the international alliance's attacks, which he said have gone beyond the UN mandate that initially authorized them.

"This threat is aimed at terrorizing civilians," he said early Monday in a late-night discussion with reporters in the Libyan capital.

Kaim also said the NATO strikes were aimed at killing Gadhafi. However, "those attempts to kill the leader are a complete waste of time," he said.

Gadhafi has rarely been seen or heard since a strike killed his son on April 30. He briefly showed up on state-run television and on another day he issued a minute-long voice message.

UNREST IN THE MIDDLE EAST



LATEST EVENTS May 13, 2011

1. Libya NATO airstrikes hit Gadhafi command-and-control center in Brega; Gadhafi spokesman says the strike killed 11 Muslim clerics, wounded 50

2. Egypt Fifteen-day detention for ousted President Hosni Mubarak's wife over suspicions of illegally amassed wealth

3. Jordan Thousands rally in Amman, elsewhere in support of a sovereign Palestinian state

4. Syria Forces open fire on thousands protesting in Damascus, Homs, near Daraa; at least 6 killed

5. Yemen Troops fire on protest in the town of Ibb killing 3, many injured; protests held nationwide

Source: AP

© 2011 MCT

Massacre in northern Guatemala leaves 29 dead

GUATEMALA CITY (AP)—Assailants killed at least 29 people—decapitating most of the victims—on a ranch in a part of northern Guatemala plagued by drug cartels, national police said Sunday.

The massacre took place early Sunday in the town of Caserio La Bomba in Peten province near the Mexico border, according to National Civil Police spokesman Donald Gonzalez. Among the 29 dead were two children and two women.

It is one of the worst massacres since the end of Guatemala's 36-year civil war in 1996.

Gonzalez said police are investigating whether the attack is related to Saturday's killing in Peten of Haroldo Leon, the brother of alleged Guatemalan drug boss Juan Jose "Juancho" Leon.

"Juancho" Leon was killed in 2008 in an ambush that Guatemalan authorities blame on Mexico's Zetas drug cartel, which has increasingly wrested control of the drug trade outside Mexico, at times by eliminating their competition.

Guatemalan police said the victims of Sunday's massacre were bound and their bodies showed signs of torture. They were believed to have worked on the farm. Police found a message written in blood at the scene saying: "Salguero, we're coming for you." Police did not say who Salguero was.

Authorities said soldiers were searching the area for the unidentified assailants and didn't offer a motive for the attack.

"This is a terrible event that we must clarify and investigate regardless of the consequences, whoever is the author of this massacre," said Guatemala Prosecutor General Claudia Paz y Paz.

Late Sunday, authorities said they had found a wounded survivor of the massacre, who stayed alive by pretending to be dead. But officials did not release any details of what the survivor said.

Guatemala is a major transshipment point for drugs, the U.S. State Department said in its latest narcotics report. Its weak law enforcement, ram-

pant corruption and proximity to Mexico have drawn Mexican drug cartels into its border regions.

In February, the government lifted a two-month-long state of siege that it had declared in Alta Verapaz province, which neighbors Peten province, during which security forces were sent to quell drug-related violence.

The state of siege gave the army emergency powers—including permission to detain suspects without warrants—and resulted in the arrest of at least 20 suspected members of the Zetas.

The Zetas are a group of ex-soldiers who began as hit men for Mexico's Gulf drug cartel before breaking off on their own, quickly becoming one of Mexico's most violent organized crime groups and spreading a reign of terror into Central America. They are notorious for their brutality, including beheading rivals and officials. Authorities have linked them to a series of massacres and mass graves in northern Mexico.

Israel's religious gays battle for acceptance

JERUSALEM (AP)—A once unimaginable movement is emerging from within Israel's insular Orthodox Jewish community: homosexuals demanding to be accepted and embraced, no matter what the Bible says.

Living alongside a secular majority that has largely embraced the Western gay rights movement, Israel's religious gays are increasingly rejecting age-old dictates to ignore their attraction, abstain from sex or undergo therapy that supposedly will make them straight.

A decade ago, says Yuval Cherlow, a heterosexual Orthodox rabbi, he would have dismissed the phenomenon as "two or four crazy people that are assimilating into Western world culture."

Then he was invited to a meeting of Orthodox homosexuals. More than 50 people turned up, nearly all graduates of Orthodox religious seminaries. Cherlow said he began to realize the issue had to be addressed, and he now advises re-

ligious gay groups.

In Orthodox Judaism, as with traditional streams of Islam and Christianity, homosexuality is generally frowned upon. Gay observant Jews may be ostracized by their families, while in the Muslim world, gays can face violence. In Iran, for instance, homosexuality is punishable by death.

Yet in Israel, homosexuals openly serve in the army, same-sex couples get some benefits, the country markets itself as a gay-friendly tourist destination, and Jerusalem has an annual gay parade. More liberal streams of Judaism embrace gay couples and even gay rabbis.

Now, the idea that one can be both gay and religious is catching on even at the fringes of Orthodoxy, a socially conservative, entrenched culture that prides itself on its differences from the modern secular world. Today, there are gay Orthodox prayer groups, support services and a large web presence.

In March, a religious gay group

called Havruta celebrated Purim at a gay-friendly nightclub in central Jerusalem with a reading of the Megillah, the traditional scroll read on this Jewish religious holiday, drawing implicit parallels between the persecution of Jews in ancient Persia and the struggle of Jewish gays against intolerance today.

The event attracted about 40 yarmulke-clad men, mostly in their 20s and early 30s, and a handful of women. Like secular Israelis who celebrate Purim by dressing up, they donned elaborate costumes and sipped beer.

But religious gays know that to be taken seriously by rabbinical authorities, they must carefully frame their demands within the boundaries of Halacha, or traditional Jewish law. Most steer clear of asking for religious recognition for their relationships.

As a result, the movement is fractured and bogged down by internal clashes over where to draw the line between respecting tradition and appeasing intolerance.

WORLD BRIEFS

Israel's borders quiet, man from Syria arrested

JERUSALEM (AP)—The military says Israel's frontiers are quiet after a violent day of border breaches, though security forces remain on alert for more violence. Police, meanwhile, say they arrested an unarmed man from Syria who tried to make his way out of the Golan Heights into Israel. Police spokesman Micky Rosenfeld says the man was stopped in a taxi driven by a Palestinian from east Jerusalem at the exit of the Golan village of Majdal Shams.

Gunfire reported at Burkina Faso barracks

OUAGADOUGOU, Burkina Faso (AP)—Witnesses are reporting gunfire at an army barracks in the West African nation of Burkina Faso. The latest unrest erupted Saturday evening and continued early Sunday at the Po barracks near the Ghanaian border. The facility hosts a training center for senior officers and com-

manders. The reports of shooting into the air come about a month after a mutiny had threatened President Blaise Compaore's 24-year rule. The president dissolved the government and removed the country's security chiefs but kept himself in power.

Security, emotions high for queen's Irish visit

DUBLIN (AP)—This week's groundbreaking visit of Queen Elizabeth II to Ireland is raising passions and security fears in a nation that has traditionally cast a cold eye on its former master. It is a trip filled with the symbolism of reconciliation as the queen stresses the need to bury a history of often bloody confrontation. Encouraged by the largely successful peace process in Northern Ireland, which has made her sensitive visit feasible, the queen will become the first British monarch to set foot in the Republic of Ireland. When a British sovereign last came, a full century ago, all of Ireland was still part of the United Kingdom.

Focus

ROBBINS, III. (AP)—Rocky Clark sometimes dreams he's running track, racing around the oval as he once did, his heart pumping fast and his long legs a blur as he crossed the finish line.

Just thinking about it makes him smile. Some nights, though, he has another recurring dream, this one pure fantasy. He sees himself in white shorts and track shoes, running again, then stopping, kneeling in prayer before a church door, somehow unable to make it inside.

When he awakens, Rocky Clark inhabits a world largely confined to four walls. Surrounding him are glass-encased autographed footballs and cherished memories of his glory days: Blue-and-gold ribbons. Trophies. And giant varsity letters from Eisenhower High School, his alma mater.

Clark can do little but swivel his head. He can't move his arms or legs. More than a decade ago, he was paralyzed from the neck down after being tackled in a high school football game. After nine months in rehab and a hospital bill approaching \$1 million, he went home.

As a quadriplegic, his long-term prospects were slim. And over the years, there have been regular hospital stays and health scares—no surprise, considering Clark's fragile condition. He has just one working lung. His right lung is partially paralyzed; certain infections could kill him.

And yet Clark has endured. His doctor credits top-notch, round-the-clock home health care paid for by the school district's \$5 million catastrophic health insurance policy. But that's run out, so the nurses and money are gone, replaced by his mother, growing financial pressures and a new sense of foreboding.

Rasul "Rocky" Clark beat the odds. And now he wonders if he's paying a price for his survival.

■ ■ ■

A week before his injury, Rocky Clark vowed to his mother that he'd strike it rich as an athlete one day and buy her a house.

Annette Clark remembers her son as an acrobatic kid who mastered back flips at age 7, ran too fast for a spanking and was always throwing balls and rocks—the inspiration of his nickname, bestowed upon him by an uncle. He took up track, football and baseball and excelled at all three, collecting ribbons, trophies and medals.

"I love awards," he now says. "It's a need thing."

On a warm September night in 2000 just four plays into the game, Clark—a high school junior and running back for Eisenhower's Cardinals—was grabbed by the shoulder and tackled. His head hit the ground. At first, he recalls, there was silence.

"When I started coming around, I heard a bunch of ringing," he says. "My whole body was vibrating, like a spring. I felt cold air. I tried to get up, but I couldn't."

Clark's neck had been broken in two places.

He spent about nine months at the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago, wondering if his injury was some sort of cruel payback for something he had done in his 16 years.

"I said to myself... 'Maybe there was something I said I shouldn't have said. Maybe there was something I did that



In this photo taken Tuesday, April 5, 2011, Annette Clark cares for her paralyzed son, Rocky Clark, in his bedroom at their home in Robbins, Ill.

Money gone, paralyzed athlete fights to survive

By SHARON COHEN
AP NATIONAL WRITER

"I shouldn't have done," he recalls. "I didn't do anybody wrong. I didn't get in trouble. ... I prayed every day. I didn't go to church all the time ... but I was good."

"Then," he says, pausing for a breath, "I realized things happen. Life doesn't always give us what we expect. I've got a spinal-cord injury, but there's nothing wrong with my brain. I've got a strong spirit and courage. You've just got to learn to deal with it."

Clark finished high school, donning cap and gown and having a friend wheel him across the stage so he could accept his diploma. He took some college courses, but a full-time schedule proved too difficult. (He'd like to return, but can't afford it.) He became a volunteer coach at Eisenhower, attending games.

All of it was made possible by the care provided through the district's insurance policy. And Clark says when the \$5 million policy ran out several months ago, he assumed it would be renewed.

But it was not.

"A limit on life? That's crazy," Clark says, his pencil-thin frame covered by a white sheet. "I thought I'd be being taken care of the rest of my life."

His mother, Annette, who filed for bankruptcy because of financial problems, says they feel abandoned by the school. "They have a moral responsibility to take care of him," she says. "It depresses me and makes me angry. My son deserves better." But the school district says both its new insurer and the one that held the \$5 million policy refused its requests to obtain a new policy for Clark. "No one is going to sell us insurance for Rocky," says John By-

rne, the school superintendent. "I feel kind of helpless."

Rocky Clark's injury is unusual, but his predicament is not.

A 2009 study estimated that 20,000 to 25,000 people in the U.S. reached the limits of their catastrophic health insurance. Many find themselves in dire straits—critically ill, facing crushing medical bills, struggling to remain in their homes, according to the state insurance commissioner.

"They're facing unenviable decisions that balance life, death, financial security and poverty—meaning the choice they make is a choice no person ever wants to make," says Michael McRaith, director of the Illinois Department of Insurance.

Annual limits are being phased out and lifetime caps ended last September as part of the new health reform law, so the ranks of those exhausting their policies will drop sharply over the coming years, and will totally be eliminated by 2014, McRaith says.

That doesn't help Clark, whose insurance has been so critical, according to Dr. Charles Beck, who has cared for him the past eight years. He wrote a letter to the school and insurance company, claiming "the loss of these benefits eventually is going to lead to his demise."

In recent weeks, Clark's mother, along with an array of supporters—some new, others longtime boosters—have drummed up attention with news stories, fundraisers, a letter-writing campaign to the school and two new websites. Their theory is simple: If they can keep his cause alive, they can keep

him alive.

Denise King, whose husband is an associate pastor at a church in Chicago's Loop, knew about Clark and when she heard of his latest troubles, she couldn't sleep. "I thought this must be God telling me to do something," she says. The church hosted a small fundraiser in May.

This spotlight has helped: Dozens of people have donated money, supplies, even a water cooler.

They join others, notably the Chicago Bears, who've been generous supporters over the years, donating, among

ON THE NET

www.rasulrockyclark.com

other things, more than \$100,000 to make the Clark house in this southern Chicago suburb wheelchair accessible, according to Don Grossnickle, a deacon who heads Gridiron Alliance. The group helps disabled high school football players in the state and tries to draw attention to safety issues.

Clark's chances of surviving a decade or more were only about 10 percent, according to Beck. He credits Annette Clark—who receives government aid as a caregiver—and top-flight nurses with doing "an absolutely remarkable job," of protecting him from potentially fatal infections and illnesses.

He also praises the resilience of mother and son: "They don't fold," Beck says.

But Beck believes that Medicaid and other state support Clark now relies on aren't enough to provide the necessary supplies, medicine, breathing equipment and 24-hour specialized care. And moving him, Beck says, isn't a good option.

"If he had been living in a nursing

home, he would have been dead five years ago," Beck says, and if he's sent to one now, "I would say goodbye to him. He would go to God. ... He requires more care than any nursing facility I am familiar with." Insurance is a business, and Beck says he knows that. But he also believes that defying medical expectations has somehow become almost a punishment.

"It's confusing to me why their responsibility ends when that \$5 million is gone ...," he says. "If he happened to outlive the actual projection ... does he suffer now because his care was good enough ... and he was lucky enough? I don't understand it."

■ ■ ■

At 27, the sculpted biceps that once filled the No. 21 red-and-white jersey have long since withered beneath a husk of skin and bones.

As Clark has grown from teen to a man, he's learned to adjust to a life where someone else has to brush his teeth or scratch an itch.

He misses using his hands: He liked to sketch as a teen—his walls are adorned with pencil drawings of people and dogs that show raw promise. And he wonders how far he could have gone as an athlete. "To have so much talent and never reach my full potential ...," he says, his raspy voice trailing off in a whisper.

But Clark tries to focus on what he has, not what he's lost. An iron will. Drive. And pride. "People tell me how inspirational I am," he says. "I've always been a motivator."

He relies on faith, too: "I leave it in God's hands." And he says it's pointless to be bitter.

"There's always someone who's got it worse than you," he says. And yet, he adds: "There are people who are not in my situation and they take life for granted. They have no determination. They don't know things can take a turn for the worse in the blink of an eye."

Annette Clark is her son's constant companion. She feeds him, washes him and sleeps on a recliner in the living room so she can hear him when he wakes at night. It's a punishing pace.

"Eventually, she'll break down," Beck says. "She has no ability to get a night's sleep. It's just a matter of time."

There's also sadness in her routine.

"It hurts for me to see him go down from muscle to nothing," she says. "It hurts for me when I have to turn him. It really hurts my heart. ... I have moments when I feel like throwing my hands up. I want to ask why. ... I have my moments when I want to run away."

Instead, she soldiers on.

From mid-April through early May, Rocky Clark was hospitalized with a blood clot in his paralyzed right lung.

The morning after he was admitted, at 1 a.m., Annette Clark says her son looked at her and declared: "I'm tired of being sick."

"What are you telling me?" she asked. Then, sensing he might be giving up, she warned: "Don't say that to me anymore."

She walked out into the hall and cried.

When she returned, he was asleep, and she wiped a tear running down his face.

In Loving Memory of †Jesus Fujihira Santos

Lovingly Known as "Chumbai"
April 29, 1964—May 09, 2011

His Memories will forever live in the hearts of his:

Wife: Eulalia Carreon Santos

Children: Jessamin C. Santos and Jessie Joseph C. Santos

Mother In-Law: Rita D. Carreon

In His New Life, he now joins his:

Father: Selvino Terlaje Santos

Mother: Carmen Atalig Fujihira Santos

Reared Parents: Ramon and Rosa S. Aguon

Father In-Law: Julian O. Carreon

Brother: Jose F. Santos

Godparents: Jose Taitano Pinaula and Ana Pangelinan

He will also be missed by his brothers, sisters, and In-Laws:

Crispina F. Santos and Nicolas Sali, Patricia S. and Yus Man Sani (Keina Jewel, Putra, Sriyani Putri), Vicente F. and Felicitas Santos (Carmen Michelle, Vincent Jr., Kaliya), Victor S. Muna, Manuel Aguon, John and Margaret D. Tudela, Benita D. Carreon, Arceli and Dolores T. Carreon, Juanita and Mariano Manalac, Rosalinda and Ricardo Manaloto, Joey and Flories Carreon, Teresita and Fernando David, Antonio and Delfina Carreon, Eduardo and Aurora Carreon, Lourdes and Justo Rivera

He is additionally survived by numerous nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, cousins and godchildren.

Mass of Intention are being celebrated each morning at Kristo Rai Church at 6:00am. Funeral services will be held on Wednesday, May 18, 2011.

His remains will be escorted from Nuestra Senora dela Pas Memorial Chapel to Kristo Rai Church at 7:30am. Responso Service will be at 8:00am followed by Holy Rosary.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00am. Cremation Service will take place at Our Lady or Peace Crematorium, Windward Hills, Guam on Thursday, May 19, 2011 at 9:00am. Disposition will be at the family residence in Papago.

Family visitation will be at Nuestra Señora dela Paz on Sunday, May 15, 2011 from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Please join us in prayers,

Eulalia "Lily" Carreon Santos, Children and Family

In Celebration of his new Life †Jose Bisionia Avila, Jr.

April 12, 1947 - May 14, 2011

His memories will forever live in the hearts of his:

Wife: Auria Borja Avila

Children and Grandchildren: Georgia C. Borja; Michelle B. Avila; Net and Edward Avila Gagni (Christian Edward); Nina and Eric Avila Sonsikoski; Jay and Michael Avila Magpayo (Paul Sebastian)

He will also be missed by his:

Father-In Law: Eugenio A. Borja

Josefina Oblena

Brothers, Sisters, and In-Laws:

Emen B. Avila; Tina A. Magdaraog; Joel B. Avila; Gloria B. Avila; Manuel C. and Angie Borja; Ignacio C. and Acinta Borja; Justina C. Borja; Eusebio C. and Margarita Borja; Olivia B. and Augustin Aldan; Francisco C. and Margarita Borja; Flavia C. Borja; Anne B. and Almondo Santos; Vicente C. and Sachi Borja

In his new life, he now joins his:

Parents: Jose Sr. and Antonina Bisionia Avila

Mother-In-Law: Rosa Camacho Borja

Brother and Sisters: Naty A. Zuniega; Jovito B. Avila; Maria B. Avila

He is additionally survived by numerous aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Mass of Intention is being celebrated each evening at 6:00 pm at St. Jude Thadeus Church, Koblerville and Holy Rosary is being recited at 7:30pm.

Funeral Services will be held this coming Friday, May 20, 2011. His remains will be escorted from Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel to Kristo Rai Church at 7:30 am. Reponso Service will be at 8:00am followed by Holy Rosary. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00am. Interment Service will follow at Santuario PAX Memorial Gardens in Kagman, Saipan.

Please Joins Us In Prayers,
Thank you - Si Yuus Maase
Maraming salamat Po

Auria Borja Avila, Children and Family

Overdrive

What to look for when buying a used car

By BRAD BERGHOLDT
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Buying a used car is always a bit of a gamble, but with the right inspection tools, the odds of buying a bad one can certainly be reduced. A certified pre-owned vehicle found at a dealership seems a safe avenue, as these cars are closely inspected and carry a warranty. This added level of protection does come at a price, and when you compare the true cost of ownership, including financing rates and new-vehicle incentives, and the high resale value of some popular models, one may find it makes more sense to buy a new one. A four- or five-year-old certified pre-owned vehicle—near the age limit for most programs—that has incurred steeper price depreciation makes the most sense to me.

A CARFAX report detailing vehicle history and Kelley Blue Book value is a good tool, if offered by the seller or undertaken by the buyer for a vehicle being considered. As remarkable as this report may be in uncovering past issues such as sales transactions, insurance claims and odometer irregularities, as well as other history, it cannot be guaranteed to be 100 percent complete or accurate. I'd view

this as a good way to discredit a bad vehicle, but only one of several methods needed to qualify a good vehicle.

A comprehensive vehicle inspection, such as that offered by AAA, or a diverse services repair shop is the next tool. A thorough inspection will verify many aspects of mechanical condition, trouble code and emissions monitor status, and hopefully a skilled eye for damage, abuse, and the level of wear and tear. I prefer to see a vehicle prior to it being professionally detailed, as one can get a better feel for the previous owner's level of care. If vehicle maintenance records have been kept and are available, that's a big plus as well.

Next is the visual/functional inspection and road test, preferably after a cold engine start. Is the engine quiet at all times? Does the transmission shift smoothly, yet firm? Does the vehicle wander, clunk, rattle or squeak when driving across irregular pavement? Are the gauges within preferred ranges and indicators known to work, yet remain off? How do the doors open and close, and do the windows operate smoothly? Are there odd odors or condition

details pertaining to upholstery or paint? Any signs of body-part misalignment, repainting or repairs?

How are the under-hood fluids—are they clean and fully filled? Do they smell good? How about fluid leakage from beneath the vehicle and at the passenger side floor, body rust, looseness of mechanisms such as the gear shift, doors, windows, and such? With greater age one must accept a progression of minor faults—comparing one vehicle to the next is a good idea to determine what is acceptable versus irregular. If needed, bring a friend who has an eye for these things.

There's always more to look for, but I'm out of space. Two final checks: A clear title (not salvaged), and a tour of used car values at Kelley Blue Book's website, kbb.com. I'd prefer a high-mileage car in excellent condition over a somewhat rougher one with lower mileage.

Brad Bergholdt is an automotive technology instructor at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose, Calif. Readers may send him email at under-the-hood@earthlink.net; he cannot make personal replies.

Volatile turn signal may suffer wiring problem

By PAUL BRAND
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

QUESTION: I have a 1996 Geo Tracker that I stored outside last summer. When I started to drive it in the fall, the driver's side turn signal worked fine until I turned on the headlights. With the lights on, it's only half as bright and blinks twice as fast. I cleaned out a mouse nest and found a loose black wire. Any idea which one

of the six ports in the harness connector this wire goes into?

ANSWER: Look closely at the male and female halves of the connector. Is there a black wire in one-half of the connector but no matching black wire in the same port on the other half? If so, that's a good bet.

In most cases, the black wire in a lighting harness is a ground connection. The Alldata database confirms this on your

Tracker. And since the rapidly flashing turn signal with the headlight on indicates the possibility of an inadequate ground, you could try simply grounding the black wire and see if the turn signal begins flashing normally.

■ ■ ■

Q: My 1995 Mercury Villager has just 12,000 miles on it. On a recent trip it suffered a loss of power and a burning smell. More recently, I drove 30 miles to a mall and on the way home the vehicle again suffered a loss of power, burning smell and smoke coming from between the right front wheel and headlight in the engine compartment. I had it towed to the dealer but they couldn't find anything wrong.

A: The most likely possibility is a restriction in the exhaust system or catalytic converter. This can lead to grossly overheated exhaust manifolds in the engine compartment, which may be the source of the smoke. Have a shop check manifold vacuum with the engine running at fast idle. If vacuum begins to fall, it's a good indicator of some type of exhaust restriction. The shop can also perform an exhaust back pressure test to confirm this type of problem.

Other possibilities include slippage in the automatic transmission or some type of significant mechanical drag in the right front brake, driveshaft, hub or bearing. A sticking brake caliper piston or slider could cause enough brake drag to feel like a loss of power and overheat the friction material to the point of generating smoke.

First Year Death Anniversary

In loving memory of

†Maria Reyes Demapan

Wife of: Ramon DLG. Demapan

We, the family humbly invite all of our relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the passing of our dearly beloved mother/grandmother unto eternal life.

Nightly Mass will be offered every evening beginning on Thursday, May 19th thru May 27th 2011 at 6:00 p.m. at the San Vicente Church followed by the Holy Rosary.

Your presence, thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated.

Un Dangkulu na Si Yu'us ma'ase
Ginen I Familia

Life & Style

Ssh, no talking: Silent movie charms Cannes fest



AP
Actors Jean Dujardin, left, and Berenice Bejo pose during a photo call for *The Artist*, at the 64th international film festival, in Cannes, southern France, Sunday, May 15, 2011.

By DAVID GERMAIN
AP MOVIE WRITER

CANNES, France (AP)—The talk Sunday at the Cannes Film Festival was about the movie that doesn't talk: a silent film about a 1920s Hollywood star toppled by the age of talkies.

French director Michel Hazanavicius' *"The Artist"* employs lush music, well-chosen but restrained sound effects and no spoken words save in one brief scene.

The result is an old-timey comic melodrama about the pitfalls of artistic pride and the power of romantic redemption that earned sustained applause at its first press screening, a rarity for notoriously snooty Cannes critics.

A last-minute addition to the lineup of 20 films competing for the festival's top honor, the Palme d'Or, *"The Artist"* is shot in black and white, conveys its limited dialogue through silent-movie title cards and is presented in the boxy format of early cinema instead of today's widescreen panoramas.

"We live in a time when people are crazy about 3-D films, people are crazy about technical innovation. Everything seems to be focused on images, and suddenly someone wanted to tell a very odd tale using this format that is a silent movie in black and white," *"The Artist"* producer Thomas Langmann said before the film's official Cannes premiere Sunday night.

"The Artist" spins the tale of the fictional George Valentin (Jean Dujardin, who also starred in Hazanavicius' James Bond spoofs *"OSS 117: Cairo, Nest of Spies"* and *"OSS 117: Lost in Rio"*) a silent-era superstar who has wealth, fame, fawning fans and an adorably clever dog who shares the screen with him.

George finds himself cast aside as talking pictures arrive and the 1929 market crash finishes him off financially. Mean-

while, rising star Peppy Miller (Berenice Bejo, who costarred in *"OSS 117: Cairo, Nest of Spies"*), who owes her career to a few small kindnesses from George, seeks to return the favor.

But George's pride is an obstacle that even Peppy's compassion may not overcome.

Like the films of Charles Chaplin, *"The Artist"* blends moments of hilarious comedy with deep pathos. Hazanavicius pored over classics from the silent age and decided that such a mix was vital to a story told virtually without words.

"I looked at them a lot to understand the rules of the game, and very quickly, I realized that comedy, and ironic comedy furthermore, would not hold water over an hour and a half," Hazanavicius said. "A silent film moreover imposes a certain way of experiencing the film on the spectator, so melodrama and a love story fit best with that format."

"Chaplin is above all a comic," he added, "but all his feature films are melodramas with some little snippets of humor."

"The Artist" also features John Goodman as George and Peppy's studio boss, James Cromwell as George's devoted chauffeur, Penelope Ann Miller as George's unhappy wife and Missi Pyle as a silent-screen starlet.

The actors bring a wonderful combination of modern intimacy and the larger-than-life hamminess of old Hollywood. Grand posturing blends with subtle gestures, shameless mugging melds with restrained glances.

Dujardin said watching silent films, "I realized that one didn't need to have a script. One could convey so much through one's body, in fact, and one's gestures."

Bejo studied actresses not only in silent film but also from the early years of talkies.

"I loved Joan Crawford when she was very young, because she was really relaxed physically, her way of dancing and moving and putting her hands on her hips and winking her eyes," Bejo said. "I watched Marlene Dietrich wink, I studied how she closed her eyes, how she entered a room. Her whole body came into a room in a special way."

One thing Hazanavicius avoided was another non-talkie of modern times, Mel Brooks' 1976 comedy *"Silent Movie."* Hazanavicius said he adores Brooks but that *"Silent Movie"*

was a parody he did not want to view before shooting his own silent film.

The director admitted borrowing liberally from other films, though, weaving in visual and musical references from many classics, including Fritz Lang's late-1920s thriller *"Spies."*

"Sometimes these are a form of tribute, sometimes they are just sort of quotes. Sometimes I just sort of borrow or steal," Hazanavicius said. "I think if things are done tastefully, it's fine."

"I just love the images so much. And what's Fritz Lang going to say about it, anyway?"

Naomi Campbell holds charity show in Cannes

CANNES, France (AP)—Naomi Campbell's charity is piggybacking on the high-wattage Cannes Film Festival to organize a fashion show in aid of the Japanese Red Cross' earthquake and tsunami relief fund.

The show will be held Monday at a historic market not far from the headquarters of the French Riviera movie showcase, which is in full swing though May 22.

Campbell told Associated

Press Television News that the theme of the show is red carpet, so "we thought it was appropriate" to stage it in Cannes.

She added, "You have to remind people that they still need help, so it had to be now."

Campbell's Fashion for Relief charity staged its first show in 2005 and says that since then it has raised 4.5 million pounds (\$7.2 million).

In Loving Memory of

†Nicolasa Reyes Quitugua

November 01, 1946 - May 10, 2011

In Her New Life, she now joins her:

Parents: Nicholas Blas and Ignacia Agulto Reyes

Parent In-Laws: Antonio R. and Maria O. Quitugua

Her memories will forever live in the hearts of her:

Husband: Daniel Ogo Quitugua

Children and Grandchildren:

Agnes Q. and Albert Taitano (Jovano, Marco and Daniel)

Patrick R. and Cristina Quitugua (Micah, Elijah, Isaiah, Johnny, Jonathan, Demetri, Brigeda and Patrick Anthony Jr.)

Daniel Jr. and Imelda Quitugua (Drake, Kaileah Junelle, Jacob and Noah)

Jeffrey Quitugua and Lianna Peters (Anthony Jeremiah, Darien Jeffrey and Jeffrey Jr.)

Rodney Quitugua and Pamela Torres (Leonard, Patrick, Dylan Jay, Tyler and Rodney Jr.)

Rollen Quitugua (Damien Quitugua)

Brothers and Sisters:

Emerinciana R. and †Jesus Sonoda

Jose A. and Darlene Duenas [†Francisca Reyes]

Antonio A. and Ramona Reyes

Nicholas A. and Teresita Reyes

Jesus A. and Eloisa Reyes

Dolores R. and Dennis Drew

Gilbert A. and Teresita Reyes

Margarita R. and Roque Bermudes

Francisco A. and Joyce Reyes

Roman A. and Remedio Reyes

Thomas A. Reyes

Brother In-Law and Sisters In-Law and Spouses:

Joaquin O. Quitugua (Deceased)

Anuncia Quitugua; (Austin TX)

Rosa O. Quitugua (Deceased)

Teresita Q. Morris & Scott Wire; (Colorado)

Rose Q. & Randy Cunliffe; (Guam)

Maria O. Quitugua (Deceased)

Victoria Q. & Gerald Calvo; (Virginia)

Antonio & Diane Quitugua; (Rota)

Ana Q. & Rodney Klinge; (Philippines)

Rosita Q. & Rudy Matanane; (Guam)

Bennette Q. & Michael Mosley; (South Carolina)

She will also be missed by numerous nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, relatives and friends.

Mass of Intention and Holy Rosary is being celebrated at six o'clock in the evening at San Vicente Church.

Funeral services will be held on Thursday, May 19, 2011. Her remains will be escorted from Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Cathedral at 7:30am. Responso Service will be at 8:00am followed Holy Rosary. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00am and Interment Service will be at Mt. Carmel Cemetery where she will be at a peaceful rest.

Si Yuus Maase - Thank You

Please Join Us In Prayers,
**Daniel Ogo Quitugua, Children,
Brothers and Sisters and Family**

Cruz keeps 'Pirate' berth afloat through pregnancy

BY DAVID GERMAIN
AP MOVIE WRITER

CANNES, France (AP)—There was no way the commanders of "Pirates of the Caribbean" were going to make Penelope Cruz walk the plank off the franchise's latest picture after she told them she was pregnant.

The filmmakers wanted her aboard so badly they charted a fresh course on the latest installment—"On Stranger Tides"—to accommodate Cruz's condition so she could shoot the film, which has its Cannes Film Festival premiere Saturday before sailing into theaters worldwide starting Wednesday.

Carrying her first child with husband Javier Bardem a year ago, Cruz broke the news to "Pirates" star Johnny Depp,

producer Jerry Bruckheimer and director Rob Marshall not long before the shooting began.

"I just wanted to make the decision with them, with Rob and Johnny and Jerry," Cruz said in an interview in Los Angeles before heading to Cannes, where she will join Depp on the festival's grand red carpet. "They had been incredibly kind with their response and protective and generous and really caring at every single step of this, the process of making this movie."

Cruz had thought the filmmakers might fear that her pregnancy could hinder the action scenes of the high-seas spectacle, in which she and Depp engage in elaborate sword battles, shipboard stunts and treks through jungles and caves.

In fact, the filmmakers themselves were worried that Cruz



AP
Actress Penelope Cruz arrives for the screening of Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides, at the 64th international film festival, in Cannes, southern France, Saturday, May 14, 2011.

herself might jump ship, deciding against such an arduous shoot while pregnant.

Bruckheimer said he had Cruz's photo on the drawing board while first developing her

character, the fiery daughter of pirate Blackbeard, who's sailing his ship, the Queen Anne's Revenge, in search of the fountain of youth.

Bruckheimer says he never imagined another actress than Cruz going head-to-head with Depp's woozy buccaneer Jack Sparrow.

"I was worried that she would back out. Fortunately, we talked to her and she said, 'No, I'll do it. I would love to do it. I can't wait.' I said, 'Great.' That was my biggest concern," Bruckheimer said. "I do a lot of television, and we've had so many actresses who get pregnant during their series and we figure out how to do it. So that didn't concern me."

'Thor' hammers 'Bridesmaids' at box office

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Thor" nailed down the No. 1 spot at the box office again.

Paramount's 3-D superhero film starring Australian Chris Hemsworth as Marvel's hammer-toting god of thunder earned \$34.5 million in its second weekend, according to studio estimates Sunday.

That brings the total haul of "Thor" to \$119.2 million, though not quite as impressive as fellow comic book hero "Iron Man 2," which earned \$211.2 million by its second weekend the same time last year.

"Thor" had a really great playing field to work on for its second weekend in theaters," said Paul Dergarabedian, box office analyst for Hollywood.com. "For a big-budget Marvel Comics film that opened very solidly to drop only 48 percent indicates some very strong word of mouth. I think Kenneth Branagh being the director really brought a lot to the table."

Universal's "Bridesmaids," the raunchy comedy starring Kristen Wiig as a down-on-her-luck maid of honor, debuted above expectations in second place with \$24.4 million. Nikki Rocco, head of distribution for Universal, attributed the movie's good reviews and word of mouth to wide audience appeal: 67 percent of the audience was female; 33 percent male.

"That's pretty good considering this is a picture titled 'Bridesmaids,'" said Rocco.

The next adversary for "Thor" arrives next week with the opening of "Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides,"

The filmmakers adjusted the schedule so more of Cruz's scenes were shot early, before she began to show. And while she did all her close-up action scenes, more work was done by a stunt double in the wider shots.

"I only did what was safe," Cruz said. "That was also very important for them, not just for me."

Co-star Geoffrey Rush, reprising his role as Sparrow's foil Barbosa, said any alterations made to accommodate Cruz were worth it.

Rush is a big fan of Woody Allen, whose "Vicky Cristina Barcelona" earned Cruz a supporting-actress Academy Award, and he said Cruz's versatility added great energy to the

latest "Pirates" flick.

"You had the fiery Latin temperament in 'Vicky Cristina Barcelona' turned into high art, high comedy in Penelope's hands, but then you see her in a Pedro Almodovar film and you go, 'She's the world's greatest dramatic actress,'" Rush said. "Having that come on to the Queen Anne's Revenge, it's as good as it gets."

Cruz gave birth to her son last January.

"On Stranger Tides" director Marshall, who also directed Cruz to an Oscar nomination in the 2009 musical "Nine," said he likes to imagine that while the actress was eating for two, she also may have been acting for two.



AP
In this film publicity image released by Paramount Pictures, Chris Hemsworth, left, and Natalie Portman are shown in a scene from the film, "Thor."

1. "Thor," \$34.5 million.
2. "Bridesmaids," \$24.4 million.
3. "Fast Five," \$19.5 million.
4. "Priest," \$14.5 million.
5. "Rio," \$8 million.
6. "Jumping the Broom," \$7.3 million.
7. "Something Borrowed," \$7 million.
8. "Water for Elephants," \$4.1 million.
9. "Tyler Perry's Madea's Big Happy Family," \$2.2 million.
10. "Soul Surfer," \$1.8 million.

"The cavalry is about to arrive," said Dergarabedian. "We're poised for a strong Memorial Day weekend. We're down year-to-date about 13 percent on revenue. A month ago, we were down 20 percent. We're making up ground, and this weekend was down only 3 percent, which is impressive considering the strength of 'Iron Man 2' in its second weekend a year ago."

Universal's car-racing sequel "Fast Five" with Dwayne Johnson shifted into the third position with \$19.5 million in its third weekend in theaters.

Sony's 3-D vampire-hunting graphic novel adaptation "Priest" opened in fourth place with \$14.5 million, while Fox's animated bird tale "Rio" landed at fifth place with \$8 million in its fifth weekend in theaters.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Hollywood.com. Final figures will be released Monday.

'Survivor: Redemption Island' winner crowned

LOS ANGELES (AP)—It took four attempts, but "Boston" Rob Mariano finally won "Survivor."

The trash-talking 35-year-old veteran of the CBS reality series overcame wacky 52-year-old former federal agent Phillip Sheppard and 19-year-old dancer Natalie Tenerelli to take home the \$1 million grand prize on Sunday's finale of "Survivor: Redemption Island." Mariano said he earned eight votes from

the nine-person jury of dismissed contestants.

"You don't know for sure until the votes are read, but I had a pretty good feeling," Mariano said during a phone interview following the finale. "I played my heart out. I love this game, but you've got to get lucky along the way, too. I know what it takes. It's really, really difficult. I'm really, really happy things happened the way they

did this time."

Mariano, who previously competed on the "Marquesas," "All-Stars" and "Heroes vs. Villains" seasons, dominated the Nicaragua-set 22nd edition of "Survivor," securing his place in the final trio by winning four individual immunity challenges and calculating the demise of most of the season's newbie castaways, including several of his own allies.

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NOW SHOWING



Priest

Friday 4:10 7:10 9:50
 Saturday & Sunday 1:10 4:10 7:10 9:50
 Mon thru Thurs 4:10 7:10

Paul Bettany, Cam Gigandet
 Horror, Western • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

Paul Bettany re-teams with Legion director Scott Stewart for this Screen Gems adaptation of the TokyoPop comic. In the film, a priest (Bettany) heads up a team with a sheriff (Cam Gigandet) and a warrior priestess (Maggie Q) to hunt down a vampiric tribe in an attempt to track down his kidnapped niece. True Blood's Stephen Moyer co-stars with 90210's Lily Collins.



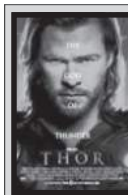
Bridesmaids

Friday 4:00 7:00 9:30
 Saturday & Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:30
 Mon thru Thurs 4:00 7:00

Kristen Wiig, Maya Rudolph
 Comedy drama • Rated R

Synopsis

Director Paul Feig and producer Judd Apatow team with co-writers Kristen Wiig and Annie Mumolo for this comedy about a devoted maid of honor whose life falls into ruin as she plans her best friend's dream wedding. Upon hearing the news that Lillian (Maya Rudolph) has gotten engaged, ecstatic Annie (Wiig) leaps at the chance to plan the perfect wedding.



Thor

Friday 4:05 7:05 9:45
 Saturday & Sunday 1:05 4:05 7:05
 Mon thru Thurs 4:05 7:05

Chris Hemsworth, Natalie Portman
 Action • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

As the son of Odin (Anthony Hopkins), the king of the Norse gods, Thor (Chris Hemsworth) is soon to inherit the throne of Asgard from his aging father. However, on the day that he is to be crowned, Thor reacts with brutality when the gods' enemies, the Frost Giants, enter the palace in violation of their treaty. As punishment, Odin banishes Thor to Earth. While Loki (Tom Hiddleston), Thor's brother, plots mischief in Asgard, Thor, now stripped of his powers, faces his greatest threat yet.



Something Borrowed

Friday 4:25 7:25 9:40
 Saturday & Sunday 1:25 4:25 7:25
 Mon thru Thurs 4:25 7:25

Kate Hudson, Ginnifer Goodwin
 Comedy drama • Rated PG 13



Beastly

Friday 4:30 7:30 9:55
 Saturday & Sunday 1:30 4:30 7:30
 Mon thru Thurs 4:30 7:30

Alex Pettyfer, Vanessa Hudgens
 Fantasy • Rated PG 13



Fast Five

Friday 4:15 7:15 10:00
 Saturday & Sunday 1:15 4:15 7:15
 Mon thru Thurs 4:15 7:15

Vin Diesel, Paul Walker
 Action • Rated PG 13



Rio

Friday 4:20 7:20 9:35
 Saturday & Sunday 1:20 4:20 7:20
 Mon thru Thurs 4:20 7:20

Anne Hathaway, will.i.am
 Children's/family • Rated G

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Rain talks music and movies, but not military duty

MACAU (AP)—In nine years, Rain has gone from an unknown backup dancer to one of Asia's hottest stars. The South Korean actor-singer also has two Hollywood movies to his credit.

But his thriving entertainment career must be put on hold later this year when he reports for two years of mandatory military duty. It's a topic the 28-year-old performer doesn't want to discuss.

In the southern Chinese gambling enclave Macau for the latest stop of what is likely his final Asian tour before military service, Rain made sure the media couldn't ask him about his imminent break from the entertainment industry.

At a news conference—delayed 2 1/2 hours—before his concert at the Venetian Macao casino-hotel late Saturday, organizers banned questions that were not preapproved by Rain's managers. Instead of discussing how the break would affect his entertainment career, Rain spoke about Macau and fan reaction around Asia.

He talked about his new movie "Living in the Sky," in which he plays a pilot, and said he wanted to make more action films and take on romantic roles in TV dramas.

Few details of his military duty have been disclosed, but he told South Korean media last month that it would start at the end of this year.

All able-bodied South Kore-



AP
South Korea pop singer and movie star Jung Ji-Hoon, also known as Rain poses during a news conference in Macau Saturday, May 14, 2011.

an men must join the military for about two years of service sometime between the ages of 18 and 35.

Managers for the South Korean star, whose real name is Jung Ji-hoon, refused an interview request in Macau from The Associated Press.

In his short career, Rain has released five Korean albums and a Japanese record and launched a film and TV career. He has also crossed over to America, appearing in a "dance-off" against comedian Stephen Colbert and starring in the Hollywood action thrillers "Speed Racer" and

"Ninja Assassin."

But Rain thinks his entertainment future lies in Asia.

"Now America is no longer dominant. Now many Asian movies and songs are very popular. The two regions have the same status now," he said.

Rain's fans are confident their idol will emerge from the two-year break unscathed.

Several dozen die-hard fans were camped out outside the concert venue six hours before show time.

"He is a very hardworking person. Serving in the military will improve his determination. It will make him more manly and more mature. His career might take a different direction after his military service, but I think he will keep getting better and better," said 21-year-old university student Zhao Wenwei.

"All his fans think that if he is gone for two years, we will not forget him. We will remember him by watching his movies and other past works," said the Shanghai resident, who shelled out 1,980 Macau patacas (\$255) for her ticket.

"The two years of military service will help build his endurance," said Ivy Tang, an 18-year-old university student from the southern Chinese city Guangzhou who traveled to Macau with about 60 fellow members of a Rain discussion group on the Chinese search engine Baidu.

Chavez thanks Shakira for red, autographed guitar

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez is thanking Colombian singer Shakira for an autographed red guitar that he says the artist sent him as a gift.

Chavez says he stayed up late strumming on the electric guitar and singing songs.

He told Venezuelan state television on Sunday: "Thanks to Shakira for that."

Information Minister An-

dres Izarra posted a photo of the guitar on Twitter after it arrived on Saturday.

Chavez said the musician asked to see him when she performed in Caracas in March, but that her flight

was late and they were unable to meet.

Chavez says he was surprised by the gift, and has been practicing on the instrument while recovering from a knee injury.

Coen brothers win \$1M Dan David Prize in Israel

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP)—The moviemaking brothers Joel and Ethan Coen have been awarded a prize worth \$1 million.

The Dan David Foundation gives three prizes every year, in past, present and future

categories.

The Coen brothers won the "present" category for work that was described as "unique in the history of filmmaking."

Joel Coen said Sunday he had

wanted to visit Israel for a long time and mentioned that his mother had lived in Israel.

The Coens have co-written and co-directed well-known films such as The Big Lebowski, Fargo, No Country for Old

Men and True Grit.

International businessman and philanthropist Dan David has been granting the awards since 2001. Previous winners include Al Gore, Amos Oz, Tony Blair and Yo-Yo Ma.

Jolie's directing debut on Bosnia opens Dec. 23

CANNES, France (AP)—Angelina Jolie's directorial debut has picked up a U.S. distributor.

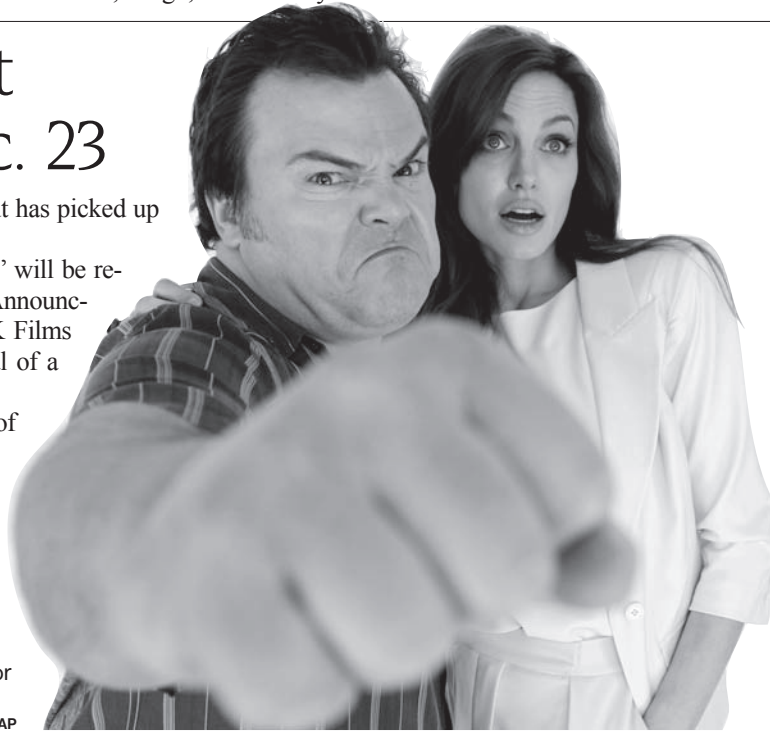
Her Bosnian War film "In the Land of Blood and Honey" will be released Dec. 23 by FilmDistrict, a subsidiary of GK Films. Announcing the acquisition Sunday at the Cannes Film Festival, GK Films founder Graham King said Jolie's debut "signals the arrival of a visceral and compelling storyteller."

The film features a completely local Bosnian cast, most of whom were children during the 1990s war.

Jolie came to the Cannes festival this year to promote "Kung Fu Panda 2" and for romantic partner Brad Pitt's drama "The Tree of Life," which premieres Monday.

In this April 14, 2011 file photo, actors Angelina Jolie, right, and Jack Black, from the upcoming film "Kung Fu Panda 2", pose for a portrait in Glendale, Calif.

AP



Daughter lacking life skills plays blame game with mom

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My 18-year-old graduating senior, "Renee," has told me I have taught her nothing about living life. Furthermore, she informed me that her school counselor agrees with her, saying I have failed to teach her the skills needed to be successful in life.

At first I was angry and denied everything my daughter said. Now I am beginning to doubt myself and the way I have raised her. Have I taught her the necessary skills to live her life? Does she lack what it takes to make it through the good and bad parts of life?

How can I know my Renee will be able to "fly out of the nest" because there is no safety net to catch her?

DOUBTING MOM IN MINNESOTA

DEAR DOUBTING MOM: Before you second-guess yourself any further, check with Renee's school counselor to make certain he or she was quoted correctly. Does your daughter know how to save money? Balance a checkbook? Hold a job? Does she know right from wrong and how to assert herself?

Many of life's survival skills are learned by imitation, the rest from experience. You can't protect your daughter from everything. Like most parents, you should cross your fingers and pray, and avoid blaming yourself for anyone else's poor choices.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am part of a circle of five guy friends. We're all around 30. Some of us date regularly, looking for the right girl. One of us, "Ian," is with "Jenny," who we're concerned about. They are now living together.

Jenny doesn't abuse Ian or cheat on him. We just think he could do better. She's pushy and materialistic, and it's impossible to have a two-way conversation with her. This isn't just my opinion. Some of Jenny's friends describe her the same way.

Because we're all so close to Ian, we hate to see this relationship progress. We worry he'll be forced to give her what she's aiming for—a ring. I know he's a grown man and can make his own decisions. Would it be wrong for one of us to tell Ian what we think of her? We hate watching what we consider a slow train wreck that's bound to get worse.

GOOD BUDDY IN SOUTH CAROLINA

DEAR GOOD BUDDY: It wouldn't be wrong, but it might be unwise for one of you to tell Ian what you think of Jenny. He might get the message better if you ALL tell him during a boys' night out. It may be difficult to extricate himself from the relationship now that they're living together—providing he even wants to. (Some men like overbearing women.) But at least he will know that his friends have second thoughts about her, and that may open his eyes.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I had a falling out with my oldest son and his wife two years ago. They have two daughters whom I dearly love, and I know they love me.

I wrote my son and daughter-in-law to beg for forgiveness. I messed up partly out of hurt and anger, and also because of the medications I was taking.

I asked my son if they really want to take away the only grandma the girls have left. I also wondered if two years of not being able to see my granddaughters was punishment enough for them and me.

I have held out the olive branch, but apparently they're not ready. Can you think of anything else I can do?

HOLES IN MY HEART IN KANSAS

DEAR HOLES IN YOUR HEART: Consider asking another family member or religious adviser to intercede for you. However, if that fails, then there is nothing else you can do. Hope and pray that time will bring reconciliation. You have my sympathy.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby - Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

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PIC Management



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Bridge Capital, LLC is currently accepting applications for an IT Support/Marketing Position for its Garapan, Saipan office location.

The ideal candidate will:

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Have experience working with Adobe Creative Suite.

Excellent written and oral communication skills:

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Interested candidates should email a resume and cover letter to js@bccnmi.com or submit at the Bridge Capital office.

Thompson Law Office, LLC
Colin M. Thompson, Esq.
J.E. Tenorio Building
PMB 917 Box 10001
Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950
Telephone: (670) 233-0777
Facsimile: (670) 233-0776
Bar No.: F0221

Attorney for Administratrix

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE ESTATE OF:) CIVIL ACTION
JOHN EDWARD UNTALAN) NO. 09-0160
Decedent.)
) NOTICE OF
) HEARING ON
) PETITION FOR
) FINAL
) DISTRIBUTION
) Date: June 7, 2011
) Time: 1:30 p.m.
) Judge: Hon.
) Robert C. Naraja

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on **June 7, 2011 at 1:30p.m.**, a hearing on the Administratrix's Petition for Final Distribution in the above-matter will be heard.

Dated this 26th day of April, 2011

/s/ Rosie Ada
By: Deputy Clerk of Court

Bertha Indalecio Ada
P.O. Box 506
Rota, MP 96951
Telephone No. 532-5354

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE MATTER) FCD GU
OF PETITION TO APPOINT) CIVIL ACTION
GENERAL GUARDIANSHIP) NO. 11-0203
FOR:)
Christian James Jude) NOTICE OF
Dela Cruz Ada) HEARING
Minor Child)
by)
BERTHA INDALECIO ADA)
Petitioner.)

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition for the Appointment a Legal Guardian for the above-named minor child by Bertha I. Ada, Petitioner, was filed with the above-entitled Honorable Court and is open for review at the office of the Clerk of the said Court in Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

A HEARING of said petition for Guardianship will held at the above-entitled Honorable Court at Guam Hustisia Building, Susupe, Saipan, NMI, before the Honorable Robert C. Naraja on the 26th day of May 2011 at 10:00 A.M. or as soon as thereafter.

Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court
/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

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Classified Ads

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Durant, Thunder beat Griz to reach West finals



OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—Coming off his worst performance in the playoffs, Kevin Durant couldn't get his shots to fall again.

Then he caught a glimpse of his mother dancing around during a timeout and, like magic, the ball started going through the net.

Durant scored 39 points for his best offensive outing of the series, Russell Westbrook had his first playoff triple-double and the Oklahoma City Thunder advanced to the Western Conference finals with a 105-90 victory over the Memphis Grizzlies in Game 7 on Sunday.

"I knew she had those dance moves," Durant said. "She used to do it all the time when I was young. She was having fun. I was glad to see that."

Soon enough, he was having fun, too—and the Thunder are two-stepping into Texas for the franchise's first appearance in the West finals since losing in the NBA finals in 1996 as the Seattle SuperSonics.

Game 1 against the Mavericks is Tuesday night in Dallas.

Durant, the NBA scoring champion the past two seasons, followed the lowest-scoring game of his two postseason appearances with one of his best. He heated up in the second quarter after the entertaining exchange with his mother, put the Thunder in control late in the third, then put it away with a pair of two-handed slams in the fourth.

"Durant is a special player, one of the best players in the NBA," said Memphis star Zach Randolph, who was limited to an inefficient 17 points and 10 rebounds. "The kid is a gym-rat, he works hard. He's one of my favorite players. You've got to give him kudos and give him respect."

"You see what he does night in and night out and he's just relentless."

Westbrook, criticized throughout the playoffs for taking too many shots, was at his all-around best with 14 points, matching his season-high with 14 assists and producing extra possessions with 10 rebounds. It was only the fifth triple-double in a Game 7, according to information provided to the team by the Elias Sports Bureau. Larry Bird, Jerry West, James Worthy and Scottie Pippen also accomplished the feat.

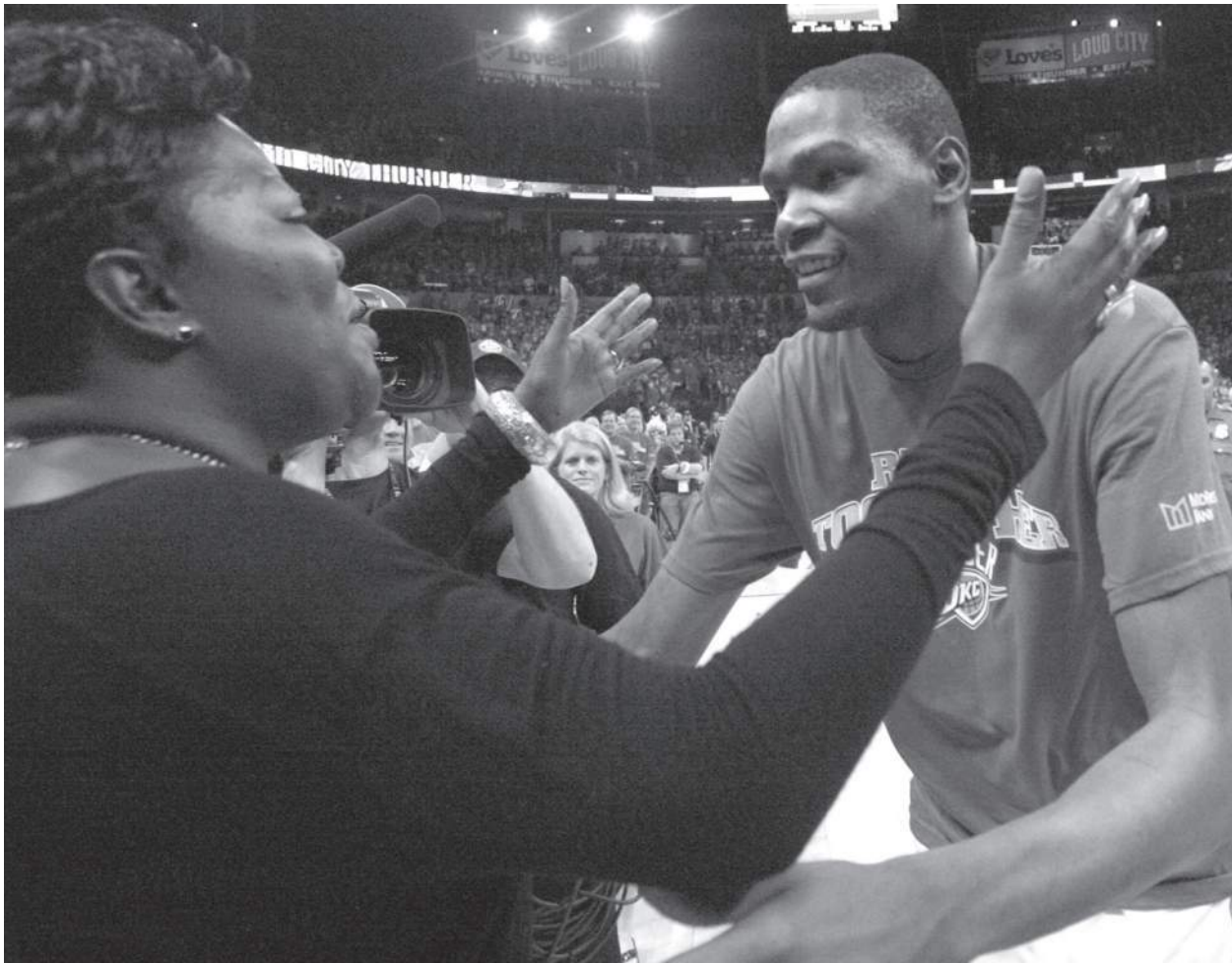
"He gets picked on a little bit, but one of the things (with) Russell, he keeps playing," Thunder coach Scott Brooks said. "He keeps improving, he keeps getting better and tonight he controlled the game."

Mike Conley scored 18 points to lead Memphis, which had never won a playoff game before this year and made a bid to become the first No. 8 seed to reach the West finals.

"We just believed we could play with anybody," said Randolph, who had averaged 28.3 points and 14.7 rebounds in the Grizzlies' three wins in the series. "We've been competing like this all year. We just wasn't seen nationally and a lot of people didn't know about us because weren't on TV a lot, but we've been playing good basketball all year and competing with the best teams."

James Harden added four 3-pointers and 17 points for Oklahoma City, and Nick Collison had 12 rebounds.

O.J. Mayo scored 14 for Memphis but couldn't provide the same



Oklahoma City Thunder forward Kevin Durant, right, greets his mother, Wanda Pratt, left, following Game 7 of a second-round NBA basketball playoff series against the Memphis Grizzlies in Oklahoma City, Sunday, May 15, 2011.

amount of room for Randolph as he did after moving into the starting lineup in Game 6.

It was the first Game 7 of the 2011 playoffs, and the first in the career for Durant and most other players on two of the NBA's rising teams. They were the two youngest rosters in the league at the start of last season, but have quickly become two of the best—just as some of the traditional powerhouses have declined.

"I think that age is kind of out the window now. Usually, you hear young franchise. Now, we've grown up together and we're getting better," Westbrook said.

"I think as long as we continue to stay humble and continue to work and try to get better, this team's going to make that next jump."

The first jumps have been big ones for the Thunder—from 3-29 and headed for the worst season in NBA history after moving to Oklahoma City in 2008 to the West finals just 2 1/2 years later.

Lionel Hollins pulled the Grizzlies' starters with just over 2 1/2 minutes left, after Durant hung on the rim and yelled after his second dunk of the closing minutes. Brooks followed at his next chance, with Durant calmly raising his right fist as he to the sidelines with the sellout crowd standing and roaring at its loudest.

Fans started chanting "We want Dallas!" in the final minute—already gearing up for series that'll be played along a stretch of Interstate 35 a little over 200 miles.

Durant came out aggressive after scoring just 11 points on 3-for-14 shooting in Game 6. He put up nine shots in the opening quarter but made only two, with Memphis leading by as many as five in the early going.

The Grizzlies then missed 18 of 23 shots over a stretch between the midway points of the first and second quarters. The Thunder took advantage with a 13-4 run to finish the first

quarter with a 21-17 advantage, then extended their lead with the unexpected spark in the second.

Arena camera crews caught Durant's mother pumping her fist in the air and dancing at her courtside seat during a timeout, and the scoring champ got a kick out of it from across the court. He came out and hit a jumper in the lane and his first 3-pointer from the right side during a 9-0 burst that gave Oklahoma City its first double-digit lead at 33-23.

He also hit his next two shots—another 3 and a layup off a Westbrook alley-oop—to bump the lead up to 11 before Conley's 3-pointer got Memphis to 42-34 at halftime.

Randolph led the Grizzlies back, and Conley's 3-pointer cut it to 52-49 with 4:52 left before Durant got going again.

Durant provided eight points—including two 3-pointers—during a 14-2 response as the Thunder regained control. After his second 3, he ran screaming to the opposite end of the court and slapped hands with former Oklahoma City player Desmond Mason, who was seated courtside.

Durant added a free throw after Hollins' technical foul, and the Thunder led 66-51 with 1:24 to go in the third.

"He brought the All-Star," Memphis' Tony Allen said. "He pushed the turbo button on us today."

Bulls 103, Heat 82

At Chicago, frustrated by a rough start, Derrick Rose stood up at halftime and apologized to his teammates. As make-ups go, they'll take it.

Rose scored 28 points, Luol Deng contained LeBron James and the Chicago Bulls struck first in the Eastern Conference finals, pulling away to beat the Miami Heat in Game 1.

The Bulls are off to a good start after sweeping the Heat during the regular season. They went on a 10-0 run midway through the third quarter, then pulled away in the fourth.

As the final minutes ticked away, fans chanted "Over-rated!" and "Beat the Heat!"

Game 2 is Wednesday night in Chicago, and they'd be just fine with another performance like this.

Rose settled down after committing three of his four turnovers in the opening minutes and showed why he is the MVP. He hit three 3-pointers and the Bulls converted 10 of 21 in all.

As for his apology?

"It was on me," Rose said. "Careless turnovers. You can't do that against this team. When they get into the open court, they're too dangerous. ... I'm the point guard. I've got to do way better."

He did just that after the early hiccup, particularly in the second half and hit some big shots down the stretch. Even so, this was no solo act.

Deng had 21 points. He hit four 3s, had four steals, seven rebounds and simply put the clamps on The King, holding James to 15 points on 5-of-15 shooting.

"Definitely to guard a guy like that the whole defense has to stay focused," Deng said. "There were times we switched and times we forced him into the double. Our bigs were great at forcing him into the front."

Carlos Boozer added 14 points and nine rebounds. Joakim Noah had 14 rebounds and the Bulls pounded the Heat on the glass, 45-33, grabbing 19 on the offensive end while outscoring them 31-8 on second-chance points.

"You play defense. You play defense hard and the shot goes up and they get an offensive rebound, kick it out for a three or get a layup or a dunk," James said. "Those are demoralizing for a defensive team. We've got to figure out a way to clean that up."

Chris Bosh led Miami with 30 points and nine rebounds. Dwyane Wade scored 18 points, but the Heat simply were overmatched down the stretch.

"Dwyane and LeBron are going to create a lot of attention," Bosh said. "This is a good defensive team. ...

They're going to make them distributors. We have to look at where we fell short as a team for Game 1 and come back with a better approach."

The Heat were leading 58-57 midway through the third when the Bulls made their move, reeling off 10 straight and seizing the momentum.

Rose and Bogans started it by nailing 3-pointers. A steal by Bogans against Wade led to two free throws by Rose after he got knocked to the floor going for a fast-break layup.

Then, after a timeout, Noah blocked a layup by Wade and scored seconds later on a layup off an inbounds along the Bulls' baseline, making it 67-58.

The Heat's James Jones ended the run with a 3, but the Bulls simply weren't about to be stopped.

When Deng hit a 3 with 1:15 left to make it 72-63 with 1:15 remaining, the crowd jumped to its feet and let out a roar. More important, that started a 14-3 run that stretched into the fourth and put this one away.

Whether it was Taj Gibson feeding Omer Asik for a dunk early in the fourth or Deng racing in to put back his own missed jumper after a 3 by James, there was plenty for the Chicago fans to cheer during that stretch. They were loving it when Ronnie Brewer stole a pass from Mario Chalmers and hit two free throws, then dunked to make it 80-66. And when C.J. Watson buried a 3 to put the lead at 17, they just about came unglued.

For at least some Chicago fans, beating Miami to get to the NBA finals would be sweet redemption after what happened during the summer.

With enough salary-cap room for a pair of stars, the Bulls went after James, Wade and Bosh in the summer, hoping to land some combination of the two.

You know the rest of that story.

"We felt like we could compete against anybody," Noah said. "This is just a really exciting situation right now. The position that we're in is unbelievable. We feel like we're not satisfied, have a long way to go. Nobody believed that we could be in this position right now. We're not worried about the praise. We're not worried about the criticism. We're just focused on what we need to do, and we believe in each other."

The Bulls wound up with a league-leading 62 wins after hiring Coach of the Year Tom Thibodeau and beefing up their roster with Boozer and solid role players. The biggest boost, of course, came from Rose, who emerged as the league's youngest MVP and ended James' two-year run while helping Chicago match its best record since the 1997-98 season, when Michael Jordan and Scottie Pippen completed their second three-peat.

Along the way, the Bulls swept three close games from the Heat, winning them by a combined eight points. James missed the first with an ankle injury, Bosh went 1 for 18 in the second and the Heat shed tears after falling to Chicago again in March. That was during a five-game losing streak, but Miami regrouped after that, winning 15 of 18 down the stretch and then knocking out both Philadelphia and Boston in five games. Now, the Heat will have to collect themselves again.

"We took it on the chin tonight," coach Erik Spoelstra said.

Choi outlasts Toms in a Players playoff

THE PLAYERS

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Fla. (AP)—K.J. Choi did everything demanded of the winner at The Players Championship.

Not only did he hit the island green on the 17th hole at the TPC Sawgrass, he did it three times in one day. With the tournament on the line, he got up-and-down for par from 80 feet on the final hole Sunday.

Despite everything Choi did to win, this Players Championship might be remembered as much for how it was lost.

David Toms, who hit 6-iron out of a divot and made an 18-foot birdie putt on the hardest hole to force a playoff, missed a 3 1/2-foot par putt on the 17th to hand Choi the biggest win of his career.

"No excuses, no spike marks, no ball marks, no nothing," Toms said of his three-putt bogey on the first sudden-death playoff hole. "Maybe a lot of pressure. But other than that, there was no excuse."

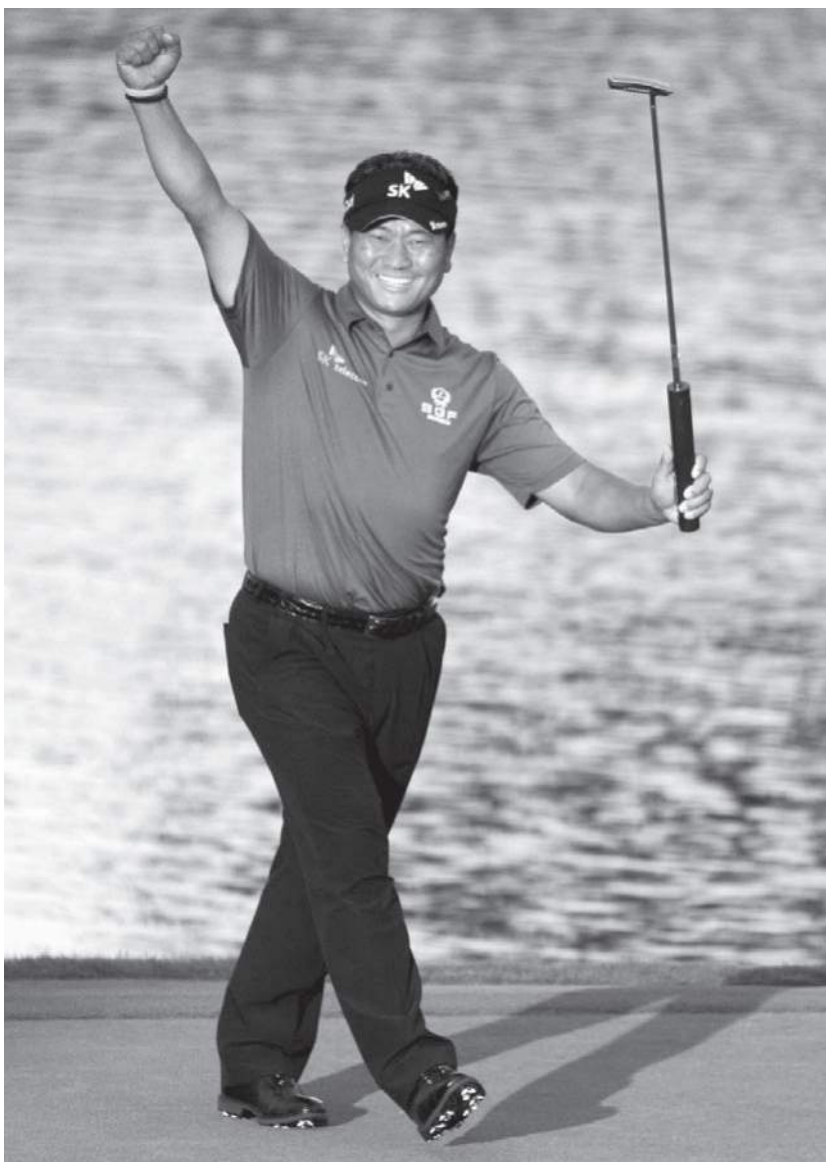
On a hole designed to provide great theater—the island-green 17th—the finish fell flat.

Both players hit the green in the play-off, and the advantage went to Toms with a shot that settled about 18 feet away. Choi lagged his long birdie putt about 3 feet by the hole, and Toms thought he had a winner with his 18-foot putt until it slid by the cup and rolled 3 1/2 feet by the cup. Into the grain, slightly uphill, he didn't strike it solidly and missed.

Choi tapped in his putt and pumped his fist, yet his heart felt for the 44-year-old Toms.

"As a fellow player, I felt very sorry for him," Choi said. "Because I know how that feels. And I felt bad for him."

Choi had reason to celebrate for his own feats. Winless on the PGA Tour for three years, he took the outright lead with a 10-foot birdie on the 17th in regulation, saved par on the 18th with a putt from



K.J. Choi reacts to winning The Players Championship golf tournament in a playoff against David Toms Sunday, May 15, 2011, in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla.

just in side 5 feet to close with a 2-under 70 and kept his nerves steady.

The South Korean lived in Jacksonville briefly when he first came to America and once practiced at the TPC Sawgrass, although he said his game wasn't good enough then to break par.

Now, Choi is The Players champion, a winner of the biggest event on the PGA Tour.

"For me to shoot under par every day on this course this week, it's like a miracle, to be honest with you," Choi said.

Choi won for the eighth time in his PGA Tour career, picked up \$1.71 million from the biggest purse in tournament golf, moved to No. 15 in the world and all but assured himself a spot on the Presidents Cup team.

Toms, winless in five years, had an

easy time taking away positives. He was the 36-hole leader, finished the rain-delayed third round Sunday morning only one shot behind and spent some five hours with his name atop the leaderboard in the final round.

And his birdie on the 18th—one of only four birdies on the hardest hole at Sawgrass in the final round—he hit 6-iron out of a divot to 18 feet and forced a playoff.

"It was the best putt I've had in an awful long time," Toms said.

Even so, it's hard to get past a pair of mistakes.

The first one came on the par-5 16th, when he had a one-shot lead over Choi and tried to reach the green in two. His approach found the water, and Toms wound up making bogey. This is the guy famous for laying up on the par-4 18th at Atlanta Athletic Club when he won his lone major 10 years ago at the PGA Championships.

Toms was trying to put pressure on Choi.

"I thought I could hit the shot," he said.

And then came the putt, when part of him already was thinking about going to the second playoff hole that decided the tournament. One consolation for Toms, along with knowing his game is close, is that he moved to No. 46 in the world and can avoid U.S. Open qualifying if he can stay there one more week.

Toms also finished with a 70, joining Choi in the playoff at 13-under 275.

So many other players felt they also squandered chances, none more than U.S. Open champion Graeme McDowell and Nick Watney.

McDowell, who had a one-shot lead when the third round concluded Sunday morning because of rain delays, lost his way after an errant tee shot into the trees on the sixth hole. He hit four shots into the water the rest of the way and closed with a 79.

Watney was in control late in the third round until playing a three-hole stretch in 4-over par, then fell behind with consecu-

tive bogeys at the turn in the final round and could never catch up.

Paul Goydos, who lost a playoff to Sergio Garcia in 2008 when the tour decided to make the 17th the first playoff hole, closed with a 69 to finish alone in third.

Luke Donald never got on track, but still managed a 71 for his seventh consecutive top 10. He tied for fourth with Watney (71) and moved to No. 2 in the world, giving England the top two spots in the world ranking.

Donald and McDowell wore an all-navy blue outfit in honor of Seve Ballesteros—his famous Sunday colors—who died last week.

Toms took a share of the lead on the second hole and never trailed until the finish.

It was a long day for both of them - 32 holes for Toms, 27 holes for Choi, because of the rain-delayed third round that had to be completed Sunday morning.

One shot by McDowell, along with one wicked bounce, set the tone for the final round—for him and those chasing him.

With consecutive birdies amid several collapses, McDowell suddenly had a three-shot lead as he closed out the third round. From the right rough on the 18th, his ball took a hard hop short of the green, caught the slope with some speed and didn't stop rolling until it tumbled over the edge and into the water. After a drop, he three-putted for double bogey to fall back to 12-under 204.

That one-shot lead didn't last long, and neither did McDowell.

He drilled a 50-foot birdie putt on No. 5 to catch Toms, then crumbled with a tee shot into the trees on No. 6, a tee shot into the water on No. 7 and a peculiar decision to try to blast out from squarely behind a plant on the ninth. He made bogey on all of them, then dropped another shot into the water on the 13th, 17th and 18th.

What makes the final three holes so dramatic is that anything can happen. No one could have expected it would end the way it did.



ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Chris Davis homered and later

drove in the tiebreaking run with an eighth-inning single as the Texas Rangers beat the Los Angeles Angels 5-4 in Sunday's clash of the American League West's top teams.

The Rangers loaded the bases to start the eighth after Rich Thompson (1-2) failed to retire any of the three batters he faced. Davis then singled to right off Hisanori Takahashi.

Adrian Beltre also homered for the defending AL champion Rangers, who moved within a half-game of the Angels for the division lead.

Davis' homer in the fourth put Texas up 4-1. It was only his second homer of the season.

Orioles 9, Rays 3

In St. Petersburg, J.J. Hardy hit a grand slam to power Baltimore to victory over Tampa Bay.

The Orioles loaded the bases when Rays pitcher Rob Delaney issued three straight walks — only one intentional — in the sixth. Hardy then put Baltimore up 8-2 when he hit his third career grand slam, off Cesar Ramos.

Nick Markakis added a solo shot

Rangers win 5-4 to close on Angels

for Baltimore.

Red Sox 7, Yankees 3

In New York, Boston completed a three-game sweep at archrival New York for the first time in seven years.

Kevin Youkilis hit a tying three-run homer and David Ortiz had a go-ahead drive for the Red Sox, who reached .500 for the first time this season after an 0-6 start.

Boston starter Jon Lester (5-1) began poorly but beat New York again and Jarrod Saltalamacchia hit his first Red Sox homer.

White Sox 4, Athletics 3

In Oakland, Alexei Ramirez had three hits, including a home run, as Chicago edged Oakland.

Ramirez drove in two runs and Omar Vizquel had two hits.

White Sox starter Mark Buehrle (3-3) won for only the second time in 15 appearances at Oakland.

Blue Jays 11, Twins 3

In Minneapolis, Jose Bautista hit three homers for the first time in his career, adding to his major league-leading total,

helping Toronto complete a three-game sweep of Minnesota.

Jose Molina also had three hits for the Blue Jays, who scored in each of the first four innings. Yunel Escobar and Aaron Hill also had a pair of hits for the visitors.

The victory extended Toronto's winning streak to a season-best five games and allowed the Blue Jays (20-20) to get back to the .500 mark for the first time in nearly a month.

Brewers 9, Pirates 6

In Milwaukee, Ryan Braun homered, tripled and drove in four runs to lead leading a shaky Zack Greinke and the Milwaukee Brewers over the Pittsburgh Pirates 9-6 Sunday for a three-game sweep.

Casey McGehee and Jonathan Lucroy also homered as the Brewers beat Pittsburgh for the ninth straight time at Miller Park. The Pirates have lost five in a row overall.

Braves 3, Phillies 2

In Atlanta, Dan Uggla hit a tiebreaking home run off Roy Halladay in the eighth inning to cap a productive afternoon in which Atlanta second baseman had two hits and a walk.

Freddie Freeman drove in two runs for Atlanta, Jonny Venters (3-0) pitched a perfect eighth and Craig Kimbrel recorded the final three outs for his 10th save.

Mets 7, Astros 4

In Houston, Justin Turner homered and drove in a career-high five runs, and Jason Pridie hit a go-ahead single and stole home as New York downed Houston.

Chris Capuano (3-4) allowed six hits and two runs in five innings. He struck out six.

Aneury Rodriguez (0-2) didn't allow a hit until the fifth, but finished with five earned runs and four walks in his third major league start.

Reds 9, Cardinals 7

In Cincinnati, Brandon Phillips hit a bases-loaded double in the seventh inning that ended St. Louis' Chris Carpenter's outing and his five-year streak of beating Cincinnati.

Carpenter (1-3) hadn't lost to the Reds since June 6, 2006, winning his last 10 decisions.

Diamondbacks 4, Dodgers 1

In Los Angeles, Ian Kennedy pitched

six innings, and Xavier Nady and Ryan Roberts hit consecutive homers to help Arizona beat Los Angeles.

Kennedy (4-1) allowed a run and four hits, struck out eight and walked one to help the Diamondbacks win a series at Dodger Stadium for the first time since August 2007.

Padres 8, Rockies 2

In Denver, Mat Latos snapped a personal 10-game losing streak and Ryan Ludwick homered in San Diego's win over slumping Colorado.

Latos (1-5) hadn't won since Sept. 7, 2010, and his 10 straight losing decisions were one shy of the club record set by right-hander Gary Ross in 1969.

Nationals 8, Marlins 4

In Washington, Jason Marquis pitched into the seventh inning to win his fifth game, and drove in two runs to lead the Nationals over Florida.

Marquis (5-1) drove in two runs in the first with an RBI double, and added a single in the fourth. He allowed two runs in the second—one of them unearned—and two in the seventh, but still got credit for snapping Florida's eight-game winning streak in Washington.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Team Morales and C-GOM secured the first two semis tickets in the Saipan Marianas Lions Club-Civic Center Inter-Color Friendship Basketball League after prevailing in their separate quarterfinal matches last Sunday at the Civic Center Court in Susupe.

Team Morales made it to the semis first after an 82-74 triumph over GPPC, while C-GOM followed suit with its 81-76 victory against Fisherman.

Kae Bernardo and Cris Valdez scored 22 points apiece for Team Morales, which also drew

Team Morales, C-GOM make semis

19 points from White Capalad. With these three players getting their acts together, Team Morales never trailed in the game.

Valdez knocked in two early triples in the first quarter and scored eight points, matching Capalad's output. Bernardo contributed six and Team Morales took a 27-23 lead after the opening canto.

Bernardo added 10 more points to keep Team Morales in the driver's seat at the break, 46-43. In the second half, GPPC failed to neutralize Team Morales' trio, allowing the Bernardo-led team to move into the

semis.

C-GOM joined Team Morales to the semis after getting a lift from Bernard Montano, Rodney Catalla and Julius Tabamo in the second half.

C-GOM was ahead by only a deuce at the break, 41-39, when Tabamo and Catalla drilled eight points apiece in the third period and gave their team a double-digit lead, 63-51. Catalla had two triples in the third quarter where C-GOM finally outgunned Fisherman, 22-12.

Then in the fourth quarter, it was Montano's turn to carry the cudgels for C-GOM, scoring

10 of his 14 points in that canto and eight of the team's last 10 markers. Montano's successive baskets helped foil Fisherman's repeated comeback bids in the fourth quarter.

Tabamo finished with a team-high 22 markers, while Catalla chipped in 12. Sonny Lerio and J.R. Ngeskebei had 10 each for C-GOM's balance scoring.

Jeff Barit paced Fisherman with 28 points and lacked support from his teammates. James Wabinga and Justin Casama were the only two other Fisherman players to score in double figures, making 19 and 12, re-

First Game
Team Morales 82 – Bernardo 22, Valdez 22, Capalad 19, Diyco 5, Ferry 4, Morales 4, Santos 2.

GPPC 74 – Sampang 16, Mungal 16, Ong 14, Urbano 12, Mejia 9, Timbal 4, Armintia 4.

Scoring by quarters: 27-23, 46-43, 66-58, 82-74.

Second Game
C-GOM 81 – Tabamo 22, Montano 14, Catallas 12, Lerio 10, Ngeskebei 10, Manalo 6, Jose 4, Tengco 2, Gunnacao 2.

Fisherman 76 – J. Barit 28, Wabinga 19, Casama 12, Delfin 9, Maranan 2, Lindo 2.

Scoring by quarters: 22-19, 41-39, 63-51, 81-76.

CARGO

From Page 28

Undefeated Miller Lite Island Flavor, meanwhile, leads the seven-team A Bracket also at 6-0, with Hanwa-Saipan World Resort (4-1) and Blue Hauz (3-1) still in the hunt. Island Apparel-Hot Shots, Cellular Pro, and VFW Post 3457-Joe's Bar Hoopaholics are lumped together at 2-3, while Triple J-Sandy Beach Homes is at the rear with a record of 1-4.

The rest of the weekend games in the Pacific Trading Co.-organized league saw Blue Hauz and Archers notch wins in Friday's doubleheader, while the Hoopaholics and Mobil also came out winners on Sunday.

Cargo Express took a 24-17 lead against Inchcape after the first quarter before blowing out

its opponent, 83-65, in the final verse.

Cargo Express maintained just under a 10-point lead for the majority of the contest before stomping its foot on the gas in the last period. Lerio Pagarao led all scorers with 25 points, while Inchcape's Jun Tabora turned in 14 in the loss.

Blue Hauz, meanwhile, started slow but saved its best for last in Friday's curtain raiser.

The team actually trailed Triple J by a bucket, 6-8, in the opening 10 minutes, but managed to knot the game at 24-all at the half.

Blue Hauz hung around, behind only by two, 43-45, heading into the final period, before limiting Triple J to just seven markers in the clutch, while it ran away with the game, 71-52.

Brandon Talania went on to finish with a team-high 18

points, while Triple J's Chris Jarabe led the field with 20.

Meanwhile, the Archers outlasted Brabu Pharmacy, 65-60, in Friday's back-and-forth primetime match.

Archers built a 55-48 lead heading into the fourth quarter after trailing Brabu, 28-30, at the half.

Archers' Joey Siriban delivered seven points in the clutch to help secure the win in the fourth quarter.

Brabu's Mike Timbal and Randy Mungcal outscored Archers' Gilbert Miranda and Jomer Diyco, 34-33, but the Archers won the battle for bench support and managed five more trips to the free throw line.

On Sunday, Dave Sablan's 43 points led Hoopaholics over Hot Shots, 73-61, in the first game; while in the nightcap

Mobil pulled off a 26-point rally in the fourth quarter to steal the win from Armatech, 78-71.

Armatech doubled up Mobil, 26-13, in the first period and maintained a strong, 43-29, margin at the break, but Mobil turned it up in the third quarter and trimmed the deficit to 52-55 heading into the fourth quarter.

Gil Gapor delivered 15 points in the clutch to spearhead the comeback victory. He finished with 19 points.

His teammate Jun Estolas tallied a game-high 26 points that topped Armatech's Elmer Esdreton and J.R. Ngeskebei's combined 19 points.

Hot Shots 61 – Barrios 20, Manalo 14, Peredo 7, Libuw 7, Umali 7, Park 4, Mendiola 2.

Scoring by quarters: 24-9, 36-18, 55-43, 73-61.

Second Game
Mobil 78 – Estolas 26, Fernando 23, Gapor 19, De Guzman 8, Navarro 2.

Armatech 71 – Berline 16, Esdreton 15, Ngeskebei 14, Devero 9, Galulu 8, Moreno 8, Montano 7, Rebuyon 2.

Scoring by quarters: 13-26, 29-43, 52-55, 78-71.

Legaspi 4, Jinang 3

Scoring by quarters: 24-17, 41-32, 58-51, 83-65.

FRIDAY
First Game
Blue Hauz 71 – Talania 18, B. Camacho 10, Fernandez 9, Lisua 8, Olivos 8, Santos 8, Tenorio 6, Diaz 2, Ebuen 2.

Triple J 52 – Jarabe 20, Palacios 12, Julianda 7, Siroy 7, Bugay 6.

Scoring by quarters: 6-8, 24-24, 43-45, 71-52.

Second Game
Archers 65 – Miranda 20, Diyco 13, Usi 10, Danipog 9, Siriban 7, Cruz 4.

Brabu 60 – Timbal 18, Mungcal 16, Ito 8, Monies 8, Brillo 4, Cortez 2, Detiera 2.

Scoring by quarters: 16-15, 44-44, 55-48, 65-60.

SGA

From Page 28

the west course of the Kagman facility on May 7 with a best ball format and only the Top 6 gross scores per each club were counted.

Delivering the goods for SGA were the tandems of former Su-

perior Court presiding judge Ed Manibusan and Steve Jang (66), Ray Dela Cruz and Frank Castro (70), Joe Demapan and Dan Quitugua (72), Martin and Joe Sablan (72), Larry Guerrero and Ray San Nicolas (76), and Manny Blas and Larry Hocog (76). Also playing for SGA were Jun Eun Taeck and Bob Magofna (77) and Ray Salas and Steve

Balakrishna (78).

Fil-Taga leaned on the pairs of Larry Pascual and Lito Mendoza (73), Rene Batallones and Nestor Siruelo (76), Leo Ganacas and Dennis Sebastian (73), Rick Kautz and Dan Ganacias (75), William Retardo and Adony Matutino (74), and Freddie Cataluna and Mike Cruz (73). Also suiting up for Fil-Taga

were Ted Malaran and Raffy Piamonte (85) and John Matsumoto and Ernie Lopez (80).

SGA bets went on to finish with 432 points against Fil-Taga's 444 to take the lead going into the second round.

The second round was played on the east course in the afternoon on the same day and had a match play format with only the

best 12 low net scores counted.

John Cruz gave SGA its lowest net with his 65, followed by Hocog (66), and Joe Sablan (67). Other members contributing to SGA's cause were Quitugua (68), Blas (68), Castro (69), Manibusan (70), Jang (71), Demapan (71), Taeck (72), Mariano Fajardo (73), and Magofna (76). The club went on to score 836 points.

Fil-Taga was 21 strokes off SGA's score with the former firing 857. Matsumoto handed Fil-Taga its best net card wit his 67, while Kautz (68), Mendoza (70), and Malaran (70) finished in the Top 3. Other Fil-Taga players who had their scores counted in the Best 12 were Mike Cruz

(71), Lopez (71), Leo Ganacias (72), Pascual 972), Cataluna (73), Retardo (74), Matutino (74), and Dan Ganacias (75).

With Fil-Taga falling short on its bid to claim the Ryder Cup, SGA was given the perpetual trophy and the \$500 cash prize during the awards ceremony last Saturday at FoodTalk. Team and individual winners were also recognized at the awards banquet.

The duo of Manibusan and Jang got \$150 for tallying the low gross score in the best ball, while SGA's John Cruz went on to take the \$90 first place prize for the low net category. Runner-up Hocog and third placer Joe Sablan received \$60 and \$50, respectively.

NATIBU

From Page 28

Laolao Bay, 19-7.

Natibu 18, Man Amigos 14

Natibu took a 5-3 lead in the first inning off an RBI single by J.R. Suel, a two-run homer by Jerome Delos Santos, and a couple of errors. Man Amigos' Joey Dela Cruz jacked a three-run blast in the top frame.

Natibu added a run in the second off a base rip by Ken Kalen and went ahead, 9-4, in the third inning thanks to a three-run homer by Delos Santos; Man Amigos' Jerry Ayuyu lifted up on a sacrifice fly in the bottom of the third inning.

Man Amigos then took a 12-11 lead in the fourth frame.

Natibu's Kalen belted a two-RBI double in the top half, while Man Amigos rallied with eight runs in the bottom off a three-run homer by Julian Ca-

macho, a single by Carl Hocog, a three-run shot by Ayuyu, and a solo blast from Dela Cruz.

After a scoreless fifth, Natibu pulled ahead, 17-12, in the sixth inning.

B.J. Sablan hit a solo shot, Lawrence Dikito an RBI single, and Kalen airmailed a grand slam.

Natibu then added a run in the seventh of a sacrifice fly and held Man Amigos to just two runs in their final stand.

Natibu's Kalen and Delos Santos combined for three homeruns and 11 RBIs.

Check It Out 5, NMC Proa 4
After three scoreless innings, NMC Proa took a 2-1 lead in the fourth frame.

NMC then pulled ahead, 4-1, in the sixth inning off an error, three hits, and a fielder's choice.

In the bottom of the seventh, Check It Out's bats came alive and it tied the game at 4-all to force extra innings. Check It

Out hammered three hits and got some help from a couple of errors in the field with Janet Jones smashing an RBI base hit.

After a quiet eighth, Check It Out left NMC with runners on second and third and scored the winning run off an infield error in the bottom of the inning.

Check It Out improved its card to 3-7 as NMC Proa dropped to a record of 4-5. Sakudi (9-1) still leads the field with T&C Clan in last place (1-8).

Phat Boyz 19, Laolao Bay 7
Phat Boyz built a 5-3 lead after the opening frame and never looked back.

Laolao Bay managed three runs off four hits in the top half, but Phat Boyz answered with five runs off a pair of doubles along with five other base rips in the bottom frame.

Laolao Bay left a man at third to start the second and Phat Boyz added four runs to its lead in the bottom frame off a two-

run home run, an RBI single, and a sacrifice fly.


Phat Boyz then jumped ahead, 12-3, in the third off a two-run shot and a double.

Laolao Bay managed a run in the fourth off a single by Charlie Wabol, but Phat Boyz piled on seven more runs in the bottom frame off a pair of RBI singles along with back-to-back two-RBI doubles.

Laolao Bay mustered three runs in its final stand, but could not avoid the early decision.

With the victory Phat Boyz now sits comfortably in second place at 9-1.

The loss to Natibu, meanwhile, means Man Amigos is now tied with V-Power for third with both teams sporting identical 7-3 records, while G-Ballers (7-5), Salty's (7-6), UR Balls (6-5), Berdax (6-6), Island Apparel-Xclusive (5-6), Calikano-Groupers (5-7), Gorillas (4-6), Familia (3-9), LaoLao Bay (2-10), and Braddahs (1-10) make up the rest of the men's standings.



TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	23	17	.575	—
New York	20	18	.526	2
Boston	20	20	.500	3
Toronto	20	20	.500	3
Baltimore	19	20	.487	3 1/2

Central Division

Cleveland	24	13	.649	—
Detroit	22	18	.550	3 1/2
Kansas City	20	19	.513	5
Chicago	17	24	.415	9
Minnesota	12	26	.316	12 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	22	19	.537	—
Texas	21	19	.525	1/2
Oakland	20	20	.500	1 1/2
Seattle	16	23	.410	5

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	25	14	.641	—
Florida	23	16	.590	2
Atlanta	23	19	.548	3 1/2
New York	19	21	.475	6 1/2
Washington	19	21	.475	6 1/2

Central Division

Cincinnati	23	17	.575	—
St. Louis	22	19	.537	1 1/2
Milwaukee	19	21	.475	4
Pittsburgh	18	22	.450	5
Chicago	17	21	.447	5
Houston	15	25	.375	8

West Division

San Francisco	22	17	.564	—
Colorado	20	18	.526	1 1/2
Los Angeles	19	22	.463	4
Arizona	17	22	.436	5
San Diego	17	23	.425	5 1/2

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Coalition of Private Schools Sports Association Basketball League

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Mt. Carmel School and Saipan International School fight for the ball.



Most Valuable Player Amber Roberts, right, joins fellow outstanding players, from left, Keolani Lebria, Christine Cristobal, and Zoe Jewell for a group photo during the awards ceremony.



Mt. Carmel School's Ty Anne Camacho, left, pulls up for a jumper against Grace Christian Academy's Leona Pangelinan during their semis game in the 2010-2011 Coalition of Private Schools Sports Association Basketball League last week at the MCS Gymnasium.



Grace Christian Academy's Joice Santos, left, dribbles out of the defense of Mt. Carmel School's Megan Sablan.



Grace Christian Academy's Leona Pangelinan fakes off the defense of a Mt. Carmel School player before making a shot.



Grace Christian Academy's Darlene Barcelon, left, and Mt. Carmel School's Carey Demapan battle for the loose ball.



A Mt. Carmel School player tries to pass the ball to her teammate after facing the tough defense of Grace Christian Academy's Christine Cristobal, right.



Saipan International School's Amy Hudkins pulls up for a shot against Mt. Carmel School defenders during their title game at the TSL Sports Complex.



Saipan International School's Zoe Jewell goes for a hooked shot against Mt. Carmel School's Carey Demapan.



Mt. Carmel School's Savana Manglona, center, challenges the defense of Saipan International School players.



Choi outlasts Toms in a Players playoff

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Durant, Thunder beat Griz to reach West finals

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

28 TUESDAY, MAY 17, 2011

Cargo Express routs Inchcape to remain undefeated

Cargo Express-Seabridge's Lerio Pagarao slices right through an Inchcape double team in their 2011 Miller Lite caging match Saturday against at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND



By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Cargo Express-Seabridge improved its undefeated record to 6-0 after an 83-65 rout of Inchcape in Saturday's lone game in the 2011 Miller Lite Friendly Invitational Basketball League at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Cargo Express leads the eight-team B Bracket by a game over the Lions Club Archers (5-1), with Inchcape in third place with a 3-2 card. Mobil sits at 2-3, Armatech and Ebisuya Fixers hold identical records at 1-4, while Brabu is still looking for its first win after four tries.

See CARGO on Page 26

SGA keeps Ryder Cup



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Saipan Golfers Association members pose with the Ryder Cup trophy during the awards ceremony last Saturday at Food Talk. SGA beat Fil-Taga in the May 7 tournament at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Saipan Golfers Association retained the Ryder Cup after outclassing Fil-Taga Golfers Association in a two-day tournament at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

SGA, which in 2005 won the

Natibu beats Man Amigos, clinches men's pennant

By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER



Natibu captured the pennant in the 2nd Annual Budweiser Slow-Pitch Softball League by running its winning streak to 14 games after beating Man Amigos, 18-14, last Friday at the Capital Hill

inaugural staging of the special event patterned after the U.S. versus Europe tournament, hoisted the Ryder Cup anew after beating Fil-Taga, 1,268-1,301.

The back-to-back Ryder Cup champion built a 12-stroke lead in the first round and then pulled away in the second round for another victory against Fil-Taga.

The first round was played on

See SGA on Page 26

Ballfield.

In the women's division of the Chamolinian Softball Association-organized league, Check It Out overcame a three-run deficit in the bottom of the last inning of regulation to tie the game and came out victorious over third-ranked NMC Proa, 5-4.

In the other men's division result, Phat Boyz routed Laolao

See NATIBU on Page 26

Roberts, Kim claim high school MVP awards

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Christian Academy's Christine Cristobal.



Saipan International School's Amber Roberts and Mt. Carmel School's Min Seong Kim were named MVPs in the 2010-2011 Coalition of Private Schools Sports Association Basketball League.

Roberts earned the coaches' nods after steering the Lady Geckos to first place in the regular season and helping SIS win the championship against Mt. Carmel School. She only scored eight points in their 40-28 victory over the Lady Knights, but her good play-making skills worked wonders for the Lady Geckos.

The SIS guard did the set-up plays for her team and her extra passes made life easy for her teammates, especially for Zoe Jewell, who scored the most points for the Lady Geckos off Roberts' assists. For her feat, Roberts received a medal and the MVP trophy during the awards ceremony last Friday at the TSL Sports Complex.

Four more female players were recognized for their outstanding performances this season. The list includes Jewell, Mt. Carmel School's Keolani Lebria, Marianas Baptist Academy's Jacinia Richards, and Grace



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

In the boys division, Kim took the coveted individual award after helping Mt. Carmel advance to the finals against Grace Christian Academy.

Kim consistently scored in double figures for the Knights in the regular season and had 13 markers in MCS's 45-56 loss to GCA in the championship game last Friday.

Kim's teammate, Reynald Cabaltica, was also recognized as one of the top players in the league, joining SIS' Richard Wang, GCA's Angelo Salas, MBA's Sid Quan, and Agape Christian School's Li Wei Liang.

For the team award, Agape received the Best in Sportsmanship trophy. The Torchbearer finished fifth in the league, losing to MBA in the first round of the playoffs. The MBA Stormz also failed to advance further, as it bowed to the Eagles in the semi-finals, while the Knights won the other semis game over SIS. Both GCA and SIS won back-to-back championships in the boys and girls divisions, respectively.

MVPs Amber Roberts, left, of Saipan International School and Mt. Carmel School's Min Seong Kim receive their trophies and medals during the awards ceremony for the COPSSA caging last Friday at the TSL Sports Complex.

EMS Week May 15-21, 2011 • EMSC Day May 18, 2011



EMSC
Emergency Medical
Services for Children



Firehouse Open House, May 21, 2011 • 9am – 2pm (Garapan Fire Station)
Bike Rodeo, May 21, 2011 • 9am – 2pm (American Memorial Park)

Bike Parade starts at Horiguchi Bldg at 8am and will end at Garapan Fire Station

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